DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 186 507 UD 020 253

TITLE Project ASSIST: Action Strategies for Implementing Social Transition.
INSTITUTION Urban League of Greater New Orleans, La.
PUB DATE Sep 78
NOTE 155p.; Not available in paper copy due to reproduction quality of original document.

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Blacks; Crime; Housing; *Low Income Groups; Poverty; *Quality of Life; Surveys
IDENTIFIERS *Louisiana (New Orleans)

ABSTRACT

Project ASSIST (Action Strategies for Implementing Social Transition) is an attempt to assess the needs, concerns, problems, strengths, and preferences of low income area residents within the city of New Orleans by developing primary based data. This report presents the findings of two major surveys, in which 1,306 households in eight low income neighborhoods were sampled. The areas of concern expressed by community residents include the high cost of living, the high crime rate, and housing needs. Other areas discussed include employment, education, health services, city services, small business opportunities, quality of the media, and the role of government and politics. (Author/RLV)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED186507

PROJECT ASSIST:

ACTION STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL TRANSITION

BY

THE NEW ORLEANS URBAN LEAGUE
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

ROSE WILLIAMS BUTLER, DIRECTOR

SEPTEMBER 1978

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.
1000 HOWARD AVENUE-SUITE 401
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70113

UD 020 253

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Frank Pinion
Urban League of Greater New Orleans
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS
The Urban League of Greater New Orleans, a United Way agency, is a non-profit, non-partisan community service organization dedicated to the improvement of living conditions among the economically disadvantaged population of New Orleans, Louisiana. Affiliated with the National Urban League, the New Orleans Urban League represents an interracial effort to promote understanding and cooperation among all citizens and is committed to the objective of equalizing the life results of blacks and other minorities and building the internal power and strength of the ghetto through systems change.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

While space limitations do not allow us to recognize by name each of the several hundred individuals responsible for the completion of Project ASSIST, certain individuals and organizations deserve special attention.

The Urban League is also indebted to these present and former Board and staff members who participated in its development: Millie Charles, Barry Mendelson, Cheryl Q. Wilson, Gail Glapion, Alvertha Bratton and Edith Jones.

The Urban League of Greater New Orleans is especially grateful for the leadership provided by Thelma Smith.

From the community at large, we wish to thank Richard Haley, who chaired the community organization taskforce. Consultation was provided by Dr. Robert Hill and Dr. John Cardwell of the National Urban League.

We also wish to thank the following organizations: TCA Community Centers, Southern University Social Welfare Department, Dillard University, Black People for Progress, New Orleans Health Corporation, Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Parent Teachers Organization, HANO Outreach, Minds, Inc., Reality House and Tambourine and Fan.

Preparation for publication was the responsibility of Bernice Harrell, Carolyn Varnado, Mary Andry, Nora Green, and Myrtis DeGrange.

Finally, we extend appreciation to the families whose responses form the final report.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY PROVIDED PROGRAMMING AND COMPUTER ASSISTANCE.

PRINTING OF THE PROJECT ASSIST REPORT WAS PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

FOREWARD

It is with great pleasure that I present this report on the problems and priorities of a significant segment of the New Orleans community. Project ASSIST: *Action Strategies for Implementing Social Transition* represents the first known attempt to secure, on a comprehensive and scientific basis, accurate primary based data on the inhabitants of low income black neighborhoods in our city.

Project ASSIST was a major undertaking by the board, staff, and volunteers of the Urban League. A major goal of the research involved reversing the damaging tendency of many social scientists, economists and researchers who plan for neighborhoods in isolation. It is a well known fact among urban planners that far too many policy-makers depend upon information secured from theoretical models which ignore the wealth of primary based data necessary to test these models. Too often, the result has been a combination of more useless secondary based data and postulations pitted against each other in statistical combat. Such misguided undertakings are in large part responsible for the abundance of meaningless policies and programs for the poor and disadvantaged that exist today.

Unfortunately, no one really has a handle on the problems of the poor or the neighborhoods they live in. No one really knows what kind of low income housing can be financially supported in the ghetto, or whether business can prosper in poor neighborhoods. What one congressman admitted about the inner cities is still regrettably true: *We know next to nothing about ghetto life.*

The Urban League undertook Project ASSIST because we recognize that researchers and economists with too few exception devote little attention to the collection and analysis of primary based data on the urban poor and black population. It is our hope that with this report, planners and policymakers will gain new insight about ghetto self-sufficiency, neighborhood reliance on factor payments, unskilled labor and other ills of a poverty existence. More importantly, we hope that this report will lead to other action-oriented research that will ultimately change economic and social policies concerning the poor that are unsound, unrealistic, and unproductive.

If this is done, Project ASSIST will have been a success. And the creation of a more humane approach to community development and institution building within the city's Black neighborhoods will ultimately result in an improved quality of life for all people who live here.

Clarence L Barney

President, Urban League of
Greater New Orleans

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1

THE PROJECT ASSIST PROCESS 3

PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS 15

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS 18

THE RANKING OF IMPORTANT CONCERNS 20
  Subgroup Factors 21

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS 25
  Cost of Living 26
  Crime Rate 33
  Housing 41
  Employment Services 50
  Education 59
  Health Services 67
  Adequacy of City Services 74
  Small Business Opportunities 82
  The Quality of the Media 89
  The Role of Government and Politics 96

CONCLUSIONS 106

TABLES 109

INTRODUCTION

In a time of rampant unemployment, and escalating crime rate, inadequate and fragmented health care, overdue welfare reform, insufficient and uninhabitable housing, and the spiraling cost of most goods and services, the low income minority continues to be forgotten and ignored.

While those agencies that provide needed services to the minority population are responsible for formulating policies, it is ironic that they often neglect to consult the very citizens the resulting programs are designed to benefit. Although much has been accomplished in the past, most efforts have failed to solve the problems of inflation and diminishing resources.

Project ASSIST (Action Strategies For Implementing Social Transition) is an attempt to access the needs, concerns, problems, strengths, and preferences of low income area residents within the City of New Orleans by developing primary based data. This process represents one agency's attempt to mobilize numerous community resources and pool the varied experiences and backgrounds of a staff committed to equalizing life results of low income minorities.

The Urban League Research Department set out to identify the economic and political strengths of the black community by having its members recognize their needs and determine solutions to problems which impact their existence. We have provided a device that allows the masses involvement in a decision-making process which affects their future. The result is a milestone in the community participation model never before attempted on such a massive scale in the New Orleans community.

The reasons for undertaking such an endeavor are threefold. The Urban League uses the Management by Objectives approach to problem solving. Such an approach requires the establishment of agency priorities based on the needs of its constituents. This process is often limited by inadequate and unreliable data necessary for goal formulation.

Consequently, we were dissatisfied with existing data on local low income area residents which exemplified gross undercounts. Also the available reference material shows little or no indication that the target community actively participated in identifying their needs and concerns.

We suggest that the planning for and subsequent delivery of human services demands the participation and sanction of community residents, agencies that provide direct services, and the administration that provides funds. This report stresses those community concerns and heartfelt desires that are so vital in the development of realistic plans and objectives consistent with the overall goals of the city.

Going into the homes and listening to residents of specific areas has allowed us to more accurately reflect the dissatisfaction, hopes, and dreams as well as what they consider to be relevant, viable solutions to their problems.

It is our hope that all concerned agencies, both public and private, as well as local elected officials, use Project ASSIST information to reorder their priorities and not devote "long periods of time discovering solutions to yesterday's problems."

Ignorance of the desires of low income people can no longer be an excuse for those who profess to care about urban problems.

9

THE PROJECT ASSIST PROCESS

Project ASSIST - Action Strategies for Implementing Social Transition is a comprehensive opinion and information survey of eight (8) low income neighborhoods of the greater New Orleans area. The aim of the research is the development of primary based data on these area residents. More directly, Project ASSIST allowed the masses of low income New Orleans area residents to assist in determining "action strategies necessary for their own social transition."

The Urban League of Greater New Orleans is primarily responsible for the development, implementation, analysis and publication of Project ASSIST.

The conception, planning, design and methodology of Project ASSIST was the combined effort of the Executive Committee, an eight (8) member policy making body. The Research Department of the New Orleans Urban League devised the questionnaire, then compiled and analyzed the data. Technical assistance and computerization of the Project ASSIST findings were provided by the Xavier University Social Research Center, with assistance from Lee Valentine, Ph.D. Printing was provided by the City of New Orleans.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology was primarily determined by a commitment to citizen participation in planning, implementation, analysis and evaluation of the process.

Approximately six months were devoted to the planning of Project ASSIST. Planning is a crucial factor in the successful mobilization and allocation of the resources of an agency. The planners involved in the decision-making process exert profound influence upon an agency's thrust. Although some agencies may bypass low income minority input and still operate effectively, the Urban League can not. The Urban League is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving living conditions among economically disadvantaged masses. In order to enable blacks and other minority group members to cultivate and exercise their full human potential, the League must know what their needs are. Service planning of Urban League projects is not limited solely to professionals. Realizing the necessity of service consumer involvement in the planning process, the Urban League made a special effort to seek community input. Unless the low income minority population functions to identify their own needs, allocation of precious time and limited resources can result in a random and wasteful utilization of these resources. Inasmuch as the Urban League does not wish to operate in such a manner, constituency input was obtained.

Equally important is citizen participation and involvement in implementation, analysis and evaluation. The Urban League fully believes that minorities must help affect the systemic changes which must occur if the barriers to their development are to be removed. Removing the barriers without an understanding of what that entails, will only delay constituency development. It is important for disadvantaged persons to learn the value of such collective power. Project ASSIST is a monument to that spirit of collectivism.

Project ASSIST sought to identify and rank the preferences, problems, and solutions given by the respondents who were black and of low income neighborhoods. Project ASSIST findings also identify in residents areas of strength that can be tapped as available resources.

The Greater New Orleans Urban League used the "management by objectives" approach to problem solving in the implementation of Project ASSIST. Its overall purpose is to present a mechanism through which the masses of low income community residents in the city of New Orleans could participate in the decision-making process of local government.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Project ASSIST was designed to accomplish the following objectives:

> Identify those issues which historically and critically impact the lifestyles of the disadvantaged persons as well as the total New Orleans community;
>
> Ascertain the degree of minority participation in planning and implementing

their community services;

Compare residents' perceptions of their problems and living conditions with those of designated community leaders;

Assess strategies for increasing minority involvement and planning in those areas that determine the quality of life and even the length of life;

Recommend a plan of action to policy-makers at various levels of government and increase government awareness of the experiences, interests, and perceived solutions to problems as they relate to specific communities;

Educate Urban League constituents about the importance of access, resources, and power of their collective position and direction;

Learn from disadvantaged residents of low income communities what systemic changes they think should occur in order to gain equity in the entire social fabric;

Mobilize community resources to implement Project ASSIST in order to remove traditional class barriers to black unity and participation and to enhance development of group goals by the black community;

Give a definitive profile of needs, problems, and resources of the Greater New Orleans disadvantaged community;

Generate accurate data on economically disadvantaged black communities for use in developing new policies and problem-solving approaches;

Offer alternatives to the myths that have been traditionally applied to the total New Orleans community;

Internally, to validate the thrust of advocacy for the New Orleans Urban League;

Remind the large numbers of disadvantaged persons that New Orleans is not the city that care forgot.

THE SURVEY

This report presents the findings of two major surveys. 1306 households were sampled in eight (8) low income neighborhoods in the greater New Orleans area. After a pilot survey involving 174 households, a survey was conducted on Saturday, October 15, 1977 in the five (5) larger low income areas of Central City, Algiers Fischer, Whitney, West Carrollton and Black Pearl: 488 households were involved. The next Saturday, October 22, 1977, the remaining three (3) low income neighborhoods of Lower Nine, Desire, and Treme were surveyed; a total of 376 households were visited. Household call back activities were conducted during two (2) separate periods. On Friday, October 21, 1977 approximately 120 households were visited. The last clean up effort occurred on Saturday, October 29, 1977, and involved 148 household units. A total of 1306 households were surveyed.

Project ASSIST planning began in May, 1977, with a staff visit to the Research Department of the National Urban League for consultation on the *SOS '76* process. On June 8, 1977, a month later, an Executive Committee was formed and officially charged as the policy making body for the replication process.

The organizational structure of Project ASSIST identified eight (8) taskforces - the Executive Committee, Support Committee, Budget Committee, Technical Assistance, Public Information, Logistics and Sustenance, Community Organization and Monitoring, and Training and Evaluation. Each committee was charged with the responsibility of establishing objectives and preparing work plans to include budgets and timelines. An average of two (2) process and problem solving meetings were held weekly until the first of two main surveys on October 15, 1977. The following activities took place during that thirteen-week period:

Quantification of survey goals and objectives;

Establishment of neighborhood selection criteria to include geographic boundaries, sample size and characteristics, methodology and survey design;

Consultation with Dr. Robert Hill and Dr. John Cardwell of National Urban League on process;

Delineation and refinement of committee tasks and functions and expansion of committees;

Training session for fifteen (15) persons designated as recorders for community input assembly;

Meetings of the Community Input Assembly to delineate issues of concern;

Development of committee plans including data analysis, training and evaluation, public relations, logistics and sustenance and manpower recruitment;

Training sessions for persons designated as moderators and recorders for expert assembly;

Meetings of the expert assembly to provide additional issues of importance and offer recommendations;

Preparation of 41 page questionnaire;

Definition and acquisition of logistiical and support needs including six (6) field headquarters and two (2) information stations, supplies and survey packets in excess of 450,000 items, sustenance totalling 681 meals or snacks for ten (10) occasions, 5 buses and 80 passenger cars;

Preparation of training manual for household interviewers and monitors;

Recruitment and training of 438 volunteers and interviewers and 20 trainers and evaluators;

Training of twenty (20) field monitors to ensure accurate completion of survey instruments;

Implementation of plans to acquaint the community and solicit participation in the survey process. This included over 100 letters to community leaders and designated contact persons, twenty radio and T.V. public service announcements each, three press releases, six radio appearances by staff, five six o'clock and 10 o'clock television news segments, seven public affairs programs by staff members, four newspaper articles in local print media, three newsletter publication, 1500 flyers, and 3 banners placed in survey neighborhoods.

PRE-FIELD PROCEDURES

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND MONITORING: This taskforce developed volunteer criteria and incentive, recruited volunteers, and implemented all field procedures.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: The Public Information Committee generated community awareness of Project ASSIST activities, including particular awareness in the impact areas, and supported and promoted community organization recruitment efforts. This taskforce drafted brochures, letters to community leaders, public service announcements, and newsletters. It developed a Speakers Bureau, secured print media, radio, and film coverage of Project ASSIST activities.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION: Training occurred in two phases. Trainers were recruited from the community at large and from among Urban League staff. Persons designated as trainers underwent extensive training to familarize themselves with the Project ASSIST questionnaire and the training manual to assure that all procedural questions were similarly answered.

Potential interviewers were required to participate in training sessions that lasted approximately three and a half hours. Presentations were made on the purpose and background of Project ASSIST. General instruction, role playing, demonstration and interviews, and a question and answer period were also included. Each interviewer was provided with an Interviewer's Manual for further study.

The evaluation component of this taskforce was charged with providing a formal assessment of all activities.

LOGISTICS: During the initial planning phases of the project, procedures were determined for providing meals and supplying materials to staff, community volunteers, and consultants on the following occasions: Project ASSIST Kick-off Assembly, Training Sessions, Community Input Assemblies, and Committee Taskforce Meetings. The primary responsibility of the Logistics and Sustenance workers was the securing of facilities and supplies on field implementaiton days. The Logistics and Sustenance taskforce was also responsible for providing transportation of volunteers and staffing infirmaries.

TECHNICAL TASKFORCE: The Technical force gathered background information on the issues, drafted issue selection criteria and worksheets, developed criteria and gathered background information for the neighborhood selection process, and provided data on the concentration of the Spanish speaking population in New Orleans. This taskforce assisted in the development of the pretest instrument and various planning activities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: All decision making functions were carried out by the Project ASSIST Executive Committee. This committee coordinated all Project ASSIST activities, i.e., developed goals and objectives, reviewed all committee plans, drafted timelines, budget and implementation plans, selected survey areas, and devised variable labels.

SUPPORT COMMITTEE: This committee was composed primarily of extended staff. The Business In Action staff developed the coding scheme, drafted and printed the coding manual. The Executive staff was responsible for the typing, mimeographing, and collating of all survey instruments. The New Orleans Plan and Minority Business Enterprise Supportive Services Program staffs assisted in all field precedures.

Street Academy staff prepared the Training Manual and assisted in conducting training sessions. The clerical staff aided in the implementation of the sampling design and the processing of the survey instruments. Extended staff aided in the critiques of committee plans and survey instruments.

SAMPLING STRATEGY

Using existing secondary data, sixty-two neighborhoods in New Orleans were ranked based on the dependency rate and percentage of Black populations, female headed families, high school graduates, families below the poverty line, and renter occupied units. The top one-third of the neighborhoods ranked were designated disadvantaged areas and were ranked again using other criteria: geographic location, public housing area, residential and commercial mix, the level of voter participation and voter registration, location of the area in relation to Canal Street, mixture of socioeconomic areas, traditional target survey areas, and religious mix.

Based upon the final overall rankings, these survey areas were selected: Central City, Algiers Fischer, Whitney, West Carrollton, Black Pearl, Lower Nine, Desire, and Treme.

Questions pertaining to the sampling frame were resolved in consultation with the National Urban League Research Department and the Department of Evaluation.

Cluster sampling procedures were employed, with housing data as the basis for clustering. The sample clusters consisted of groups of six adjacent housing units, and within each cluster of units, one adult in each housing unit was sampled. Systematic random procedures were used to insure the representativeness of the sample although sampling housing units to make estimates about individuals, and sampling clusters of housing units instead of randomly sampling separate housing units tends to increase the overall sampling error, the sample size was increased sufficiently to account for the increased error due to clustering.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The pretest, pilot, and main survey were all conducted in the eight survey areas: Central City, Algiers Fischer, Whitney, West Carrollton, Black Pearl, Lower Ninth Ward, Desire and Treme. The neighborhood boundaries were consistent with those utilized by the City of New Orleans in *A Socio-Economic Profile of New Orleans and Its Neighborhoods:* Thirty-three census tracts composed of these neighborhoods: Central City, U.S. Census tracts 67, 68, 69, 79, 80, 84, 85, 86, 91, 92, 93, 94; Treme, U.S. Census tracts 39, 40, 43, 44, 48; Lower Ninth Ward, U.S. Census tracts 7.01, 9.01, 9.02, 9.03, 9.04; West Carrollton/Black Pearl, U.S. Census tracts 129, 130, 131, 132, 125; Algiers Fischer/Whitney, U.S. Census tracts 6.01, 4; Desire, U.S. Census tracts 17.04, 17.05 and 17.06.

QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to get the required community input in the development of the Project ASSIST questionnaire, community input panels and expert input panels met on separate occasions. On July 18, 1977, seventy-five (75) community persons (service consumers) met at the CEI facility on Gentilly Blvd., to express and prioritize their concerns on eighteen issues. And, on August 8, 1977, sixty-five (65) experts (service providers) similarly met. The resulting data, in combination with input from staff and members of the Technical Taskforce Sub-Committee on Questionnaire Construction, was collated and put into the first draft of a questionnaire that addressed the following issues of concern: Entrepreneurship, Ethics of Corporate Conduct/Corporate Community Responsibility, Environment and Energy, Government Service/Politics, Human Rights and Relations, Consumer Protection, Income Security, Recreation and Sports, Religion, Employment, Transportation, Media Programming Effect, Health, Education, Criminal Justice, Housing and Inflation/Taxation.

Among the criteria utilized by staff and the Community Assemblies were: to what extent does the issue impact systemic policy implications, the number of disadvantaged people affected by the issue, whether or not the issue was recurrent; the extent to which the issue could be operationalized; the extent to which the perception of the issue was shared by both the grassroots and the formal leadership structure; the extent to which the issue was amenable to collective action; whether or not the issue affected the total New Orleans area or predominantly inner city residents; what percentage of the economically disadvantaged population was affected by the issue, what had been done so far to address the problem and whether or not community resources were available to address the problem, did the issue critically impact the life styles of disadvantaged people; and was the issue of historical significance for the black community.

Much of the background information was provided by Project ASSIST staff through library research of existing secondary data.

The initial questionnaire was subject to a series of critiques by academicians and experts in the designated subject areas. Critiques were also provided by the National Urban League Research Department and the Department of Evaluation.

Due to the length of the instrument, the pretest took approximately one hour to administer. Although the League recognized the lengthiness of the instrument, we were committed to the process of community input, by letting the results dictate which items should be deleted.

The pretest and pilot surveys were conducted within a three week period. The pretest on September 17, 1977, conducted in all survey neighborhoods, was designed to test the instrument for length of interview and clarity of questionnaire content. Subsequently, the survey instrument was revised. Given that the questionnaire was a voluminous document, a second test, the pilot on October 8th was used to test the changes incorporated since the pretest. It was also hoped that the pilot would further test the questionnaire for comprehensiveness, and to finalize field operation strategies and logistical and manpower requirements for the two main surveys. The pilot was conducted by staff and student volunteers from university social welfare classes. Since only minor changes were made following the pilot test and because the pilot and main survey thrusts were administered within a week of each other, the results reported in this document represent the combined findings from these efforts.

FIELD PROCEDURES

Because only minor revisions were necessary, the main survey thrust began the following Saturday, October 15th in Central City, Algiers Fischer, Whitney, West Carrollton, and Black Pearl. On the successive Saturday, October 22, 1977, Lower Nine, Desire and Treme were surveyed. On Friday, October 21st and on Saturday, October 29th two major call-back efforts were undertaken.

All field work occurred between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Survey personnel were requested to report to field headquarters at 9:00 a.m. for a briefing, to secure all necessary supplies and transportation. Area assignments were made by area monitors.

After interviewers were dispatched, they carried out the instructions provided them in training sessions and the Training Manual. If an interviewer ran into a problem, the monitor was available for assistance.

As a result of this major research effort, approximately thirteen hundred surveys were collected by volunteer interviewers and staff.

Those persons who conducted household interviews on October 8th participated in both main surveys on October 15th and 22nd. The majority of these persons were later utilized as trainers for new household interviewers. Selection of household interviewers was determined by the successful completion of one training session and willingness to volunteer time.

TRANSCRIPTION

Two hundred trained volunteers from the Urban League Street Academy and local universities participated in 27 coding sessions between January 30, 1978 and February 14, 1978. The survey data was transferred to OPSCAN forms. Thirteen forms were prepared for each questionnaire. This process included the coding of 5,059 survey sections in sessions each averaging 3 hours.

The coded OPSCAN forms were fed into an OPSCAN machine, where they were punched into cards. Simultaneously, staff key punched many of the forms requiring only identifying information. All key punching operations were completed on February 19, 1978 by staff.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community residents participated on two basic levels, one involved survey implementation; the other resulted in residents answering a 3-30 minute interview. Sources of volunteer and paid staff included non-profit social service organizations, civic groups, churches, professional associations, solicitation organizations, and four university undergraduate departments of social welfare and sociology. Training sessions involved three and one-half hour afternoon and evening sessions on nine (9) occasions. The format for the sessions included introductory presentations on survey purpose and background, small group activities, and role playing for the interviewers.

DATA PROCESSING

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was utilized by Xavier University to process the data. Research staff assisted in the programming activities.

DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis of Project ASSIST data was critiqued by forty experts in various fields and Urban League staff. The conclusions and recommendations were also based on constituency input and were the product of the Project ASSIST Executive Committee, ULGNO main office staff and special project personnel and consultants in the delineated subject areas.

A PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

The majority of Project ASSIST respondents were native New Orleanians who had resided in New Orleans for ten or more years. Fifty-five (54.7%) percent of survey respondents reported New Orleans as their birthplace. Seventy-eight percent (77.8%) of low income area respondents reported they had resided in New Orleans for ten years or more. Seventy-six percent (76.3%) of respondents had lived in two or more neighborhoods while in New Orleans. One third of survey respondents had resided in four or more area in the city.

A higher proportion of Project ASSIST respondents were younger adults, although all age groups were represented. Forty-five percent of respondents were between the ages 18-34. Twenty-one percent (21.4%) of respondents were 35-49 years of age. Slightly less than one-fourth of survey respondents (23.5%) reported being 50 years old or older.

Of the low income area respondents, 32.6% were married; 31.8% were either separated, widowed or divorced; and 22.9% were single.

Project ASSIST respondents reported a low level of educational attainment. Forty-two percent (42.1%) of survey respondents reported no high school or only some high school training. Forty-four percent (44.2%) were high school graduates and only 3.4% reported that they were college graduates.

The majority of Project ASSIST respondents reported their children attended public schools. Fifty-two percent (52.2%) indicated they had children in public schools. The average number in attendance was two (1.7%). Eighteen percent (18.3%) of survey respondents reported having children enrolled in private schools. The average number enrolled in private schools was one (1.2%).

The majority of Project ASSIST respondents were female. Sixty-four percent (63.6%) reported being of the female sex. Twenty-five percent reported they were males.

The average household size of Project ASSIST respondents were three persons (2.8%).

The vast majority of survey respondents identified themselves as Black. Seventy percent (70.4%) of Project ASSIST respondents stated Black as their racial identity. Ten percent (9.8%) considered themselves Negroes. Only 4.1% of low income area respondents identified themselves as Afro-American; 2.4% as colored; and 0.7% as Creole.

The average number of bedrooms in the houses of survey respondents was 2.2.

The majority of survey respondents reported incomes below the 1974 Bureau of Labor's estimated "lower" minimum annual standard of living for an urban family of four ($9,198). Fifty-four respondents reported a total family income of less than $8,200. Thirty percent (30.2%) reported incomes below $4,000 a year.

The majority of Project ASSIST respondents acknowledged religious affiliation. Twenty percent (19.8%) reported that they were Catholic. Fifty percent (49.9%) reported Protestant affiliation. Only 4.3% of survey respondents reported no religious affiliation.

Although the majority of respondents reported a religious affiliation, only 41.1% reported belonging to a church.

Weekly attendance at religious services was reported by 42.4% of respondents. The same percentage indicated bi-monthly (11.3%) and monthly (11.4%) attendance. Only 6% of survey respondents reported they never attended religious services.

Slightly more than nineteen percent of survey respondents reported contributing $100.00 or more annually to the church. Nine percent (8.8%) of respondents contributed $200.00 or more a year to the church.

Seventeen percent (17.3%) of respondents reported membership in a social organization.

Five percent (5.3%) reported membership in a civic organization.

Thirty-three percent (33.2%) of survey respondents indicated that they participated in Mardi Gras only because of their children.

Twenty-one percent (20.6%) of total survey respondents owned their own homes. Sixty-three percent (63.2%) were renters.

The median housing value of Project ASSIST property owners is $17,278.

Comparisons were made between selective 1970 U.S. Census data. Data were relatively consistent with regard to age, and housing values. The percent of high school graduates among Project ASSIST respondents was slightly higher than the city wide average, although the percentage of college graduates is much lower. Both levels however are still below the national level of educational attainment. The percentage of families among Project ASSIST respondents is also slightly higher. The income distribution among respondents is more consistent with the distribution in the Community Development Impact Areas than for the city wide area. The rate of unemployment is drastically disproportionate. When Census data is compared, the rate for survey respondents is more consistent with urban blighted areas. The same comparison holds regarding home-ownership status. The disparities regarding employment, sex, and income are consistent with the League's concentration in blighted urban areas.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFIGANT FINDINGS

Seventy-two percent (71.9%) of survey respondents felt that food should not be taxed.

Eighty-five percent of low income area respondents felt that medicine should not be taxed.

The bulk of survey respondents (93%) felt that energy costs should be reduced for the poor and elderly.

Sixty percent of survey respondents felt that renters should be given the same tax credit as homeowners.

Seventy-seven percent (76.9%) of survey respondents felt that poor people should have more input into big business.

Sixty-seven percent (67.4%) of survey respondents felt that no one has a right to violate the law in order to survive.

The majority of survey respondents (80.6%) felt that increased social service expenditures would lead to a reduction in the cost of law enforcement.

Ninety-one percent (91.3%) of low income area respondents felt that any job was better than going on welfare.

Among the most important changes respondents indicated they would make on the welfare system are: Increasing payments (34.5%); allowing persons to receive welfare and work (22.5%); providing better services (18%) and reducing the cost of food stamps (11%).

An overwhelming majority (87.6%) of low income area respondents felt that government spends more to help big business than it does to help poor people.

Seventy-three percent (72.8%) of survey respondents are concerned about crime in their neighborhoods and fear that either they or a member of their family would become a victim of a crime.

Ninety percent of the respondents rated the overall quality of police protection in the city of New Orleans as being fair to poor.

Over half (53%) of low income area respondents who were renters considered rent control a viable option to high rents.

Almost forty-six percent (45.7%) of survey respondents reported they were unemployed and actively seeking work. One-fourth of employed respondents reported their usual rate of pay was $2.50 per hour or less.

Seventy-two percent 71.6%) of survey respondents felt that public schools were inadequately funded and seventy-one percent (71.2%) of survey respondents agreed that teachers should have a right to strike.

Nearly sixty percent (57.7%) of survey respondents never having obtained medical attention, indicated they were unable to afford the cost of medical services.

Eighty-six and seven tenths percent of survey respondents felt that the federal government should implement a national health insurance plan.

Almost seventy-three percent (72.6%) of survey respondents indicated a willingness to invest in a community owned business with the potential for profitability.

Sixty-nine percent of low income respondents claim that the daily newspaper do not adequately report the news of the black community. Forty-one percent of the respondents felt that black newspapers do not represent the interest of the black community.

Sixty-three percent (62.5%) of survey respondents reported that they felt black movies do not accurately show life as it exists in the black community.

One out of four low income area respondents indicated they were not registered voters.

Seventy-eight percent of the respondents indicated a willingness to invest in a community owned business with the potential for profitability.

THE RANKING OF IMPORTANT CONCERNS

In *PROJECT ASSIST: Action Strategies for Implementing Social Transition,* 1306 residents of low income areas of the city of New Orleans ranked ten areas in order of importance to them, choosing from the following categories: High Cost of Living, Employment Services, Small Business Opportunities, Educational System, Health Services, Housing Needs, Crime Rate, Adequacy of City Services, The Role of Government and Politics, and the Quality of the Media.

HIGH COST OF LIVING was clearly found to be the most pressing problem concerning residents of eight low income neighborhoods of New Orleans. Forty-six percent of residents felt that the High Cost of Living was their most pressing problem.

The CRIME RATE and HOUSING NEEDS were found to be the second and third issues of concern to survey residents. Sixteen percent (16.3%) of respondents felt that the CRIME RATE was their most important problem. Ten percent (10.2%) of residents ranked HOUSING NEEDS as their most important issues of concern. Together the CRIME RATE and HOUSING NEEDS accounted for 16.5% of all the responses.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (8.3%) and the EDUCATION SYSTEM (7.0%) ranked fourth and fifth in order of importance to low income area residents, accounting for 15.3% of the responses.

HEALTH SERVICES (4.3%), the ADEQUACY OF CITY SERVICES(2.8%), SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES (1.9%), the QUALITY OF THE MEDIA (1.4%), and the ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (0.9%) were also perceived as issues of importance to eleven percent of survey respondents.

SUBGROUP FACTORS

The relationship between the issues chosen and the age, neighborhoods, sex, family income, religious affiliation, and employment status of the respondents were explored.

Project ASSIST data revealed that regardless of age, neighborhood, sex, level of income, religious affiliation or employment status, the high cost of living and the crime rate were the two most important issues of concern to low income area respondents of the Project ASSIST survey areas.

Housing, employment and education were also important issues of concern to survey respondents.

AGE

High cost of living was viewed as a pressing problem by younger, middle aged, and older adults. However, more older adults reported high cost of living as the most important issue of concern to them. Over half of adult respondents 55 years or older indicated inflation was a pressing problem for them. The group relatively least affected is the 30-34 year old age group (38.7%). All other age categories had a minimum of 42.5% when reporting inflation as a serious problem.

The incidence of crime was also considered to be of pressing importance to respondents of all ages. However, persons 45-54 years old were slightly more concerned about the crime rates in their neighborhoods (21.7%-25%).

Another issue of concern to persons below 29 years of age was employment services. Housing was of concern to persons over 44 years of age and between the ages of 30-34 years. Education was of concern for the 35-39 age category.

As similarily indicated, the high cost of living and crime are issues of concern which cut across age categories. Other issues of differential concern are employment services, housing and the educational system.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Regardless of the survey area selected, Treme, Algiers, Lower Nine, Central City, Desire or Carrollton, the high cost of living was the most important concern of low income area respondents.

While all areas indicated the high cost of living was an important issue of concern to them, slightly more residents of the Treme area indicated the high cost of living was a pressing issue. Over half (54.3%) of the survey respondents of the Treme area ranked the high cost of living as the most pressing concern.

Predictably, crime was the second most pressing area of concern which cut across neighborhood lines. Roughly eighteen percent of the residents of both Desire and Carrollton were concerned about a rising crime rate. An estimated 15.1% of the survey residents of Algiers; 12.6% of the Treme residents; 11.6% of Lower Nine respondents also followed the same pattern.

Housing was also a pressing issue for all survey neighborhoods. There was no significant variation between percentages. Employment and education were issues of concern for both the Treme and Lower Nine neighborhoods.

By and large, concern for the high cost of living and the crime rate was shared by all residents of the Project ASSIST Income Areas.

SEX

Both male and female respondents indicated that the high cost of living was their most pressing problem. However, a slightly higher percentage of female respondents (48.7%) felt it was most pressing as compared to males (40%).

Crime, similar to the high cost of living, was reported to be a pressing concern to survey respondents, regardless of sex. A slightly higher percentage of males (18.8%) than females (15.8%) indicated this concern.

Another issue of primary concern to males was employment services (11.6%).

In general, the issues of concern appear to be independent of one's sex. Both males and females reported the high cost of living and crime as their first and second most pressing issues of concern.

6)

FAMILY INCOME FACTORS

Whether survey respondents reported low, moderate, or high incomes, the high cost of living was the most important issue confronting all of them. However, very low income respondents (under $4,000) were more likely to indicate high cost of living as the most important problem. Over half of very low income respondents considered high cost of living a number one priority compared to 45.2% of respondents with incomes ranging from $4,000 to $8,199; and 42.6% of survey respondents reporting incomes between $8,200 - $9,199 felt that the high cost of living was the most pressing problem.

The crime rate was the next issue of most concern to survey respondents regardless of their income levels. However, persons with incomes over $9,200 were slightly more likely to report the crime as a pressing concern (19.8%) as compared to other income levels with ranges between $4,000-$8,199 (14.6%) to $8,200-$9,199 (16.5%).

Although there was great similarity in the first and second issues of most concern, there was great disparity among income levels when selecting the third issue.

Persons reporting incomes under $4,000 were concerned with adequate housing (14.8%). Respondents with incomes ranging between $4,000-$8,199 were concerned with employment services (11.4%)

Employment services (12.7%) and education (11.4%) were both of concern to respondents reporting over $9,200 yearly incomes.

In general, the high cost of living and crime were the first and second issues of most concern to survey respondents regardless of their levels of income. Housing, education, and employment services were also felt to be issues of concern differentially affecting these respondents.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Concern for the high cost of living and crime cut across denominational lines. Catholics (47.7%) were slightly more concerned than Protestants (44.85) with the high cost of living. Both were equally concerned about the crime rate in their areas; 17.4% of the Catholic respondents and 17.3% of the Protestant respondents expressed their concern.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employment status did not play a significant part in the ranking of priorities by low income residents of Project ASSIST neighborhoods. Both employed and unemployed alike felt the high cost of living to be their most pressing problem. Those residents who reported they were unemployed and actively seeking work were more likely to consider the high cost of living the most important issue of concern to them. Percentages ranged from 44.1% for the unemployed who were actively seeking work to 52.3% for students who were actively seeking work.

Even those respondents who were unemployed and not actively seeking work reported feeling the impact of inflation. Almost half (48.6%) of these respondents selected high cost of living as the issue of most concern to them.

Inflation was a problem for privately employed (44.1%) and government employed 41.5%) alike. Self-employed persons were least affected by inflation.

Like the high cost of living, concern about the crime rate cut across employment categories. Employed and unemployed alike were concerned about the growing crime rate in their neighborhoods. However, both government (22%) and privately employed persons (20.4%) were slightly more likely to consider the crime rate a problem than unemployed persons (percentages ranged from 11.4% to 18.4%).

Housing was a pressing issue for retired persons (22.7%), students (13.6%) and self-employed persons (12.5%). Employment services were of concern to unemployed persons actively seeking work (11.2%). Disabled respondents, actively seeking work were concerned about health services (11.4%). Government employees found education to be a rather pressing issue (12.2%).

The selection of priorities was generally independent of employment status. Whether employed or unemployed, high cost of living and crime were considered to be the first and second most important issues of concern. Other priorities included housing needs, employment and health services and the educational system.

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

HIGH COST OF LIVING

One woman works as a domestic. For her labor, she is paid twenty-five dollars a week. Another woman with two children and no job receives $140 a month in Aid to Dependent Children. A partially blind man with a nervous disorder get a check amounting to $197.80 for his disability. An eighty-five year old widow lives alone and can expect little more than two hundred dollars a month in Social Security benefits.

These are examples of many of the city's needy who are trapped in vicious cycles of poverty.

The budgets of families in impoverished neighborhoods are overwhelmed by the near impossible task of keeping a household intact financially. Expenses inevitably exceed income; and while low wages and fixed incomes are expected to improve periodically, those small accruements are outpaced by double digit inflation and rising taxes.

During the winter months the cost of utilities rose as high as rent in some households. Along with the increasing costs of transportation, shelter, and medical expenses, the rising cost of groceries forced many families to change their eating habits.

While food stamps and subsidized housing are available to soften the impact of rising expenses, continued eligibility for these and similar programs depends upon the relative constancy of need. The recipients of welfare grants are predominantly women and children who are forced to subsist on a meager and deficient standard of living, insuring generations of need and frustration in a system that exists totally apart from the reality of the inflated economy that surrounds them. Other government programs are based on similar standards of low and insufficient benefits.

Each year, more than 50,000 people are in need of shelter, food, clothing, and referral services on an emergency basis. They are people pushed to the raw edge of their existence, while the future only promises to futher aggravate an already critical state for the 40% who make up the city's poor.

The effect of inflation on the low income respondents involved in the Project ASSIST survey are examined in the following HIGH COST OF LIVING section.

INFLATION AND ITS IMPACT UPON THE POOR

Inflation was of critical concern to the vast majority of persons living in low income areas of New Orleans. Ninety-five percent of survey respondents felt inflation was a serious problem.

Over fifty percent (53.1%) of survey respondents felt inflation was a serious problem because of limited purchasing power and resources. Inflation was felt to be a problem because people are on fixed incomes (21.8%) and because the dollar doesn't go as far as it used to.

Inflation was also felt to be problematic because it caused a vicious cycle: higher prices leading to higher wages then to higher prices (19.5%). Eleven percent (10.6%) of survey respondents felt that inflation led to the curtailment of hiring by employers.

As a result of inflation and its accompanying limited hiring and purchasing power, many low income area residents are forced to seek other means of financial assistance. Sixty percent of survey respondents reported they had applied for income security services, i.e., old age assistance, AFDC assistance, food stamps, disability assistance, Social Security, Medicaid or Medicare, Housing/Section 8 or Veterans Benefits, during the last twelve months.

Although the rate of disapproval for these services ranged from three percent for Medicare/Medicaid to sixteen percent for unemployment compensation, the overall quality of social services were not highly rated. Thirty-four percent (34.1%) of survey respondents rated social services as fair. Forty percent (40.2%) of low income area respondents rated these services as poor. Only (12.2%) of survey respondents considered social services good.

In addition to income security services, the majority of low income area residents supplemented their income through other means. Seventy-two percent (72.3%) of survey respondents reported they sought temporary employment, borrowed money, received aid from family, friends or a non-profit agency; hustled; or pawned or sold goods in order to make ends meet. Twenty-five percent (25.4%)

indicated that friends or family members had helped out financially. Eighteen percent (18.4%) of survey respondents indicated that either they or other family members sought employment. Fourteen percent (13.8%) of respondents reported they were forced to borrow money from a lending institution. Less than four percent reported having to pawn or sell goods or hustle in order to make ends meet.

Yet, despite their reliance on income security measures and on other supplemental means of assistance, the vast majority of low income area respondents reported they had to reduce their spending for necessities. Three out of four respondents indicated they spent less in the last twelve months for basics such as food, clothing, utilities, and transportation.

In addition to coping with inflation, many low income area residents are also coping with the energy crisis. Sixty percent (59.6%) of survey respondents believed that an actual crisis existed. The high cost of energy (29.2%) combined with the inability of the poor to pay these higher prices (30.6%) were perceived as the two primary reasons for the energy crisis.

The high cost of utilities was felt by many low income area respondents to be unjustified. Seventy-seven percent (77.2%) of survey respondents felt that their utilities were estimated and not read.

To inflation and the energy crisis, must also be added a disproportionate tax burden. Seventy-three percent (72.6%) of low income area respondents felt that the sales tax was a problem. Respondents reported that the sales tax was a problem because the poor are overtaxed (39.6%), because sales taxes tend to increase the costs of other goods and services (13.6%) and because sales taxes do not go back into improving poor communities (27.2%).

Many poor people have become despondent over the unresponiveness of government to their plight. An overwhelming majority (87.6%) of low income area respondents felt that the government spends more to help big business than it does to help poor people. Three out of four persons responding felt some of the present tax deductions and exemptions allowed to business and large corporations should be eliminated. The vast majority of low income area respondents (88.9%) felt that the poor tend to suffer while big business profits.

The lack of responsiveness by government on the local and state level was also perceived to be a factor in inflation. Twenty-two percent (21.9%) of respondents indicated that none of the following were responsive to the problems affecting poor people: the mayor, the city council, the governor, the state legislature, or social services agencies.

CITIZENS SOLUTIONS TO INFLATION AND ITS ACCOMPANIMENTS

As relief to the plight of many poor people, low income area respondents overwhelmingly agreed that food and medicine should not be taxed. Seventy-two percent (71.9%) of respondents felt that food should not be taxed. Eighty-five percent of low income area respondents felt that medicine should not be taxed.

The bulk of survey respondents (93%) felt that energy costs should be reduced for the poor and elderly. Many respondents also felt that renters should be given the same tax credits as homeowners(60%).

Two-thirds of survey respondents felt that poor people should have more input into big business.

Despite the plight of low income area respondents, the majority of them refuse to turn to illegal activities as a solution to their poverty. Illegal activity was rejected as a viable survival option by sixty-seven percent (67.4%) of survey respondents.

The majority of survey respondents (80.6%), however, did feel that increased welfare funds would lead to a reduction in law enforcement expenditures.

Employment, even in low paying jobs, was considered a viable option to welfare status by low income area respondents. Ninety-one percent (91.3%) felt that any job was better than going on welfare.

WELFARE SYSTEM

The majority of survey respondents considered the level of payment the glaring deficiency of the welfare system.

Fifty-three percent (53.1%) of low income area respondents ranked low payments as their primary concern about the welfare system. Secondary concerns of the welfare system were a reduction in the number of clients (18.8%), program red tape (18.2%), and deduction wages when working (21.5%). Respondents were also concerned about the high cost of food stamps (26.3%).

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That a federally guaranteed income program should be implemented through a radical reform of the income tax system.

That the cash requirement of the food stamp program be eliminated.

That "Life Line" utility rates be established or a "utility stamp" program be devised to reduce the effects of costs on the poor and elderly.

That municipal sales tax be repealed and the method of property tax assessment be revised to compensate for lost revenues.

That a federal program of public service jobs be expanded for public assistance clients.

That consumer information and consumer education be provided to residents of low income neighborhoods.

That wage-price controls be implemented and enforced nationally.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The effects of inflation, taxation, and the energy crisis on the poor and persons on fixed incomes have been devastating. Even though they are taking advantage of available income security services and relying upon other supplemental assistance, many low income area residents still have to reduce their spending for necessities. In addition, many perceive their sacrificies and hardship as unnecessary.

Many low income area respondents felt that the high costs for goods and services were unjustified. They believe their utility bills are being estimated, not read. They see their tax dollars though disproportionate, not returned to them in the form of improved neighborhoods. They pay more for the same goods and services that others could purchase cheaper elsewhere. The social services accessible to them are inadequate to their needs. Yet, government continues to be insensitive to their plight.

Their leaders were perceived as insensitive and non-responsive. Governmental support of business and industry was perceived to be far in excess of that provided to the poor. Businessmen and industrialists were perceived as indifferent to the suffering of poor people. Social service agencies were also perceived as uncaring.

Despite paying high utility bills, carrying a disproportionate tax burden, and paying higher prices for goods and services, low income area respondents felt that only low paying jobs were available to the poor. Low income area respondents have come to expect to pay more, work harder, and receive less. This cynicism is fed by a lack of responsiveness on the part of government, its agents, and the social service agencies.

Ninety-five percent of survey respondents felt that inflation was a serious problem.

Fifty-three percent of survey respondents felt inflation was a serious problem because of fixed incomes and limited purchasing power. Twenty percent of respondents felt that inflation caused a vicious cycle; higher prices leading to higher wages, then to higher prices; 10.6% felt inflation led to the curtailment of hiring by employers.

Sixty percent (59.7%) of survey respondents reported they had applied for income security services, i.e., Old Age Assistance, AFDC Assistance, Social Security, Medicaid/Medicare, Unemployment Compensation, Public Housing/Section 8, or Veterans Benefits, during the last twelve months. The rate of disapproval for these services ranged from three percent for Medicaid/Medicare to sixteen percent for Unemployment Compensation.

Seventy-two percent (72.3%) of survey respondents reported they sought temporary employment; borrowed money from a lending institution; received aid from family, friends, or a non-profit agency; hustled; pawned or sold goods in order to make ends meet.

Three out of four respondents reported they spent less in the last twelve months for basic necessities such as food, clothing, utilities or transportation.

Sixty percent (59.6%) of survey respondents felt that an energy crisis existed.

The high cost of energy (29.2%) combined with the poor's inability to pay these higher prices (30.6%) were perceived as the primary reasons for the energy crisis.

Seventy-seven percent (77.2%) of survey respondents felt that their utilities were estimated and not read.

Seventy-three percent (72.6%) of low income area respondents felt that the sales tax was a problem because the poor are overtaxed (39.6%), sales taxes tend to increase the costs of other goods and services (13.6%) and sales taxes do not go back into improving poor communities (27.2%).

An overwhelming majority (87.6%) of low income area respondents felt that the government spends more to help big business than it does to help poor people.

Three out of four respondents felt that some of the present tax deductions and exemptions allowed to businesses and large corporations should be eliminated.

The vast majority of low income area respondents (88.9%) felt that the poor tend to suffer while big business profits.

Twenty-two percent (21.9%) of respondents felt that neither the mayor, the city council, the governor, state legislature nor social services agencies were responsive to their needs.

The poor and persons on fixed incomes have suffered disproportionately from inflation, the energy crisis, and our tax system.

CRIME RATE

An old woman is beaten and robbed of all her rent money. A young mother's purse is snatched as she comes out of a grocery store. A mailbox is broken into, a welfare check is stolen; an apartment burglarized. A fourteen year old girl is raped. A young man loses his life after a barroom altercation.

Crime in low income neighborhoods is regular and anticipated. It is a means of survival for those who can find no other way to live. It creates an atmosphere of fear and mistrust, demanding the most from people who have the least. Violence and destruction are the main exports of frustrated, low income existence, inevitably spilling over into larger surrounding neighborhoods, leaving behind the human residue of loss, pain, and destruction.

Crime is on the rise in New Orleans. According to the latest available statistic, there is an overall increase in the number of reported major index crimes committed in New Orleans. Each month, local citizens suffer monetary and property loss in the amount of $1,800,000 to $2,600,000 from auto theft, armed robbery, burglary, theft, shoplifting, pickpocketing, purse snatching, and stolen bicycles.

During the last five years, approximately 36% of all state homicides occurred in this city. Almost 4/5th of the victims and perpetrators have been black. The incidence of black-on-black crime in New Orleans is epidemic, a statement of parastic desperation from an economically ailing population. Allowed no where to turn they turn on themselves in violence.

The following section on Crime as perceived by low income respondents emphasizes this societal ill.

Findings from the survey section on the CRIME RATE are reported under six major headings which include: PERCEPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME; EXPERIENCES OF CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION; OVERALL QUALITY OF POLICE PROTECTION; DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF POOR BLACKS; ILLS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM; and CITIZEN SOLUTIONS.

Included under the category PERCEPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME are findings pertaining to the citizens perception of the perpetrators, major causes and types of crimes most frequently committed in their areas.

EXPERIENCES OF CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION presents findings regarding citizens' actual involvement in a criminal act during the past year, their reporting of the incident, and their perception of the quality of services they received from the police.

The category of OVERALL QUALITY OF POLICE PROTECTION offers respondents' perceptions of the quality of police protection and treatment on a city wide basis.

Reported under DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF POOR BLACKS are the perceptions of low income residents as they relate to police protection and treatment received by poor blacks as compared to the treatment of other persons under the criminal justice system of New Orleans.

The respondents' perceptions of the problems of the criminal justice system are included in the category on the ILLS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

The category of CITIZENS' SOLUTIONS presents findings regarding solutions the citizens feel should be explored in an effort to rectify the problems of the criminal justice system.

PERCEPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

Low income area respondents felt that the crime rate is moderately high in their neighborhoods and that they generally fear becoming a victim of a criminal act. Seventy-five and one-tenth percent of area respondents indicated that the crime rate in their neighborhoods ranged from medium (31%) to high (44.1%). Seventy-three percent (72.8%) fear that either they or a member of their family would become a victim of a crime.

Many survey area respondents believe the major perpetrators of neighborhood crimes to be juveniles who did not reside in their area. Forty-two percent of the area respondents felt that most of the crimes committed in their neighborhoods were committed by juveniles. Non-area residents were cited as the primary perpetrators by 47.7% of survey respondents.

Respondents indicated that the primary causes of juvenile crime in their area were lack of parental supervision (29.1%), drugs and alcohol (27.2%), bad environment (14.4%)

and limited job opportunities for youth (13.2%).

The major causes of juvenile crime as perceived by low income respondents were also considered to be contributing factors in the occurrence of adult crime in their area. Drugs and alcohol (39.7%) and unemployment and limited income (21.7%) were felt to be the major causes of adult crime. Thirteen percent of survey respondents reported that the availability of guns was considered a contributing factor to the incidence of adult crime.

Almost forty-three percent (42.8%) of area respondents reported that robbery or attempted robbery was the most frequently committed crime in their neighborhood, while murder or attempted murder (16%), rape or attempted rape (11.5%), and vandalism (10%) were cited less frequently.

EXPERIENCES OF CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION

Though many area respondents reported that they feared becoming a victim of a criminal act, those persons who were actually victimized felt that reporting such an incident would be futile. Fourteen percent (14.5%) of low income area respondents reported they had been a victim of a criminal act within the last year. Of those persons who had been victimized, half chose not to report the crime because they felt it would be a waste of time. Forty-four percent felt that the police department was uncaring about their complaints. Twenty percent (20.5%) did not report the crime because they feared for their lives.

A majority of persons reporting criminal offenses indicated that the police service they received was inadequate. Seventy-two percent of those area residents reporting crimes indicated that the quality of police service they received was fair (27.9%) to poor (44.1%).

Although only a small number of respondents reported being a victim of police brutality (8.3%), the vast majority (72.7%) of low income area respondents did not believe that complaints of police brutality were handled adequately by the police department.

OVERALL QUALITY OF POLICE PROTECTION

The overall quality of police protection in the City of New Orleans was reported as being unsatisfactory by low income residents. The majority (90.3%) of survey respondents rated the overall quality of police protection in the city as being fair (39.4%) or poor (50.9%).

A substantial number (72.9%) reported that the quality of treatment by black police officers was no different from that of white policemen.

DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF POOR BLACKS

Low income residents felt that poor blacks as a whole do not receive the same treatment in the criminal justice system as do other people in New Orleans. Four out of five persons believe that poor black people do not receive the same police protection as other people in New Orleans. Additionally, over three-fourths (77.8%) of those persons responding reported that poor blacks do not receive the same treatment in the criminal justice system as other people in the city.

ILLS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Many low income area respondents felt the issue of police brutality to be one of the most serious problems of the criminal justice system in New Orleans. More than half (53.7%) of all the respondents indicated police brutality to be a serious problem.

Many respondents expressed doubt in the decision-making abilities of most juries. Over half (52.6%) of the survey respondents felt that juries seldom understand a case well enough to make a just decision.

Additional serious ills of the criminal justice system as cited by respondents include poor conditions in jails (44%) leniency of parole (34.0%), overcrowdedness of the courts (31.3%), the lack of adequate defense by lawyers (29.1%), and corruption (15.7%).

CITIZENS' SOLUTIONS

More patrolmen, reduction of drug traffic, and increased job opportunities were perceived by survey respondents as primary solutions to the ills of the criminal justice system in New Orleans. Low income area residents ranked their solutions to the problems of the criminal justice system as follows: an increase in the number of patrolmen on the street (46%); reduction of drug traffic (16.1%); and the provision of more job opportunities (12.2%).

The need for higher rates of convictions (17%) and swifter trials (15.4%) were secondary solutions to existing problems of the criminal justice system.

More prevention and rehabilitation programs (24%) and an increase in minority participation (10.3%) in all phases of the criminal justice system were considered the third most important solution to these problems.

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That the implementation of treatment, prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation programs for juveniles be provided through treatment centers, vocational counseling, residential facilities, and employment opportunities as needed.

That more community based programs be designed and funded to detect, treat and follow-up instances of substance abuse and provide individual and family counseling, education, and rehabilitation for juvenile offenders.

That the City of New Orleans upgrade existing substance abuse education, treatment, and rehabilitation programs which provide vocational counseling, training and placement of adult offenders while increasing law enforcement efforts to prevent illegal distribution and use of drugs; the police department be provided additional manpower in areas having high incidence of crime in an effort to detect and apprehend violators at all levels.

That local efforts to establish community advisory boards consisting of representatives from the neighborhoods, local district commands, and the community relations division of the police department be established to assist the police department in improving the quality of police protection and services it offers. Increasing the level of cooperation and communication among neighborhood residents and the department, and realigning enforcement procedures to coincide with the needs of the neighborhoods should also be part of this effort.

That an external review board representative of a cross section of residents be designed to investigate complaints not specifically confined to issues of police brutality and to recommend disciplinary action.

That an indepth study be conducted to investigate the incidence of legal discrimination, police corruption and brutality, the deterioration and escalation of overcrowded detention facilities, the overtaxed court system and inadequate courtroom facilities to determine whether justice is administered fairly and firmly.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Most residents of low income neighborhoods are fearful that either themselves or a family member may become a victim of criminal act.

Many feel that the prevalence of juvenile crime in their area is due to limited parental supervision and the increase in substance abuse.

Although area residents live in fear of crime, the actual rate of reports of victimization is quite low. Yet, among those persons who have experienced the pain of a criminal act, many have chosen not to report such incidents to the proper authorities because they feel helpless and believe the police department insenitive to their plight.

However, those who reported incidents of criminal activity believed the handling of their complaints was inadequate. Confronted with insufficient police protection and discriminatory treatment in their attempts to obtain justice, many have expressed concern regarding the operation

45

of the criminal justice system.

Low income residents who are concerned about the criminal justice system providing swifter trials and a higher rate of conviction are also concerned about the need to deter criminal activity. Therefore, many believe that increasing the number of patrolmen in their area, reducing drug traffic, and providing more job opportunities will circumvent the opportunity of criminal activity.

Seventy-five percent of survey respondents reported the crime rate in their neighborhoods ranged from medium to high.

Seventy-three percent (72.8%) of low income area residents were afraid that either they or a family member would become a victim of crime.

Almost forty-eight percent (47.7%) of area respondents reported that non-area residents were the primary perpetrators of crime in their areas.

Forty-two percent of area respondents reported that juveniles committed most of the crimes in their neighborhoods. The lack of parental supervision (29.1%) and drugs and alcohol (27.2%) were cited as the chief causes of juvenile crime.

Forty-three percent of respondents reported that robbery or attempted robbery was the most frequently committed crime in their neighborhoods.

Fourteen and five-tenths percent of area respondents reported they had been a victim of a criminal act within the last twelve months.

Half of those persons who had been victimized chose not to report the crime because they felt it would be a waste of time; 44% felt that the police department was uncaring about their problems; and 20.5% feared for their lives.

Seventy-two percent of those area residents reporting crime indicated that the qualtiy of police service they received was fair to poor.

Nearly seventy-three percent (72.7%) of low income area respondents did not believe that complaints of police brutality were handled adquately by the police department.

Ninety percent of survey respondents rated the overall quality of police protection in the city of New Orleans as being fair to poor.

Almost seventy-three percent (72.9%) of respondents reported that the quality of treatment by black police officers was no different from that of white policemen.

Four out of five respondents felt that poor black people do not receive the same police protection as other people in New Orleans. Over three-fourth (77.8%) reported that poor blacks also do not receive the same treatment in the criminal justice system as other people in the city.

More than half (53.7%) of low income residents felt that police brutality was a serious problem.

Nearly fifty-three percent (52.6%) of survey respondents felt that juries seldom understand a case well enough to make a just decision.

Forty-four percent of area residents indicated that poor conditions in jails was a serious ill of the criminal justice system - the leniency of parole (34.0%); the overcrowdedness of courts (31.3%); the lack of adequate defense by lawyers (29.1%); and corruption (15.7%).

As solutions to the existing ills of the criminal justice syste, area residents desire an increase in the number of patrolmen on the street (46%); a reduction of drug traffic (16.1%); and the provision of more job opportunities (12.2%).

HOUSING

The face of New Orleans is scarred with painful reminders of institutionalized poverty. Public housing projects house over 50,000 of the city's poor and black population. Last year, an estimated 12,000 families applied for public dwellings through the city's housing authority while only a mere 1200 of the most distressed cases could be serviced. The remaining 90% were forced to seek housing in substandard buildings of the city, while some turned to relatives or set up housekeeping in hallways of condemned buildings.

The problem of finding decent housing in New Orleans poses almost insurmountable obstacles for low income families, particularly if they are black.

Excessive rents, physically inadequate housing, overcrowding, dilapidated neighborhoods and dangerous environmental conditions disporportionately affect poor blacks who occupy over 30% of all dwelling units, half of all substandard units, three-fourths of the total overcrowded units, and 80% of the total who pay excessive rents.

Almost seventy-two thousand low income households are in need of housing assistance, a need unrelieved by the unavailability of land and stagnant low income housing construction.

This unanswered housing crisis is supported by survey respondents in the following HOUSING NEEDS section.

HOUSING NEEDS

Project ASSIST findings from the HOUSING Needs section are grouped under five major categories.

OCCUPANCY STATUS describes the respondents' housing status.

NEIGHBORHOOD DETERIORATION AND DISINVESTMENT reveals low income residents' perceptions of the quality of their neighborhoods, their experiences with rental agencies, and their desire to relocate.

AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF LOW INCOME HOUSING presents perceptions of housing problems, expectations regarding future housing markets and experiences with housing discrimination.

MECHANISMS FOR HOUSING MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS includes findings regarding citizens' willingness to assume additional tax burdens and their assessment of neighborhood improvement associations.

Alternatives to correcting housing problems in New Orleans are explored under VIABLE OPTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

Also reported are agents considered most responsible for correcting the housing situation.

OCCUPANCY STATUS

The majority of Project ASSIST low income area respondents who were concerned about housing were renters. Eighty-three percent of survey respondents specified their occupancy status as renters.

Only sixteen percent reported homeownership status.

NEIGHBORHOOD DETERIORATION AND DISINVESTMENTS

Many homeowners felt that their neighborhoods had deteriorated since they purchased their homes and that their homes were decreasing in value. Forty-six percent of low income homeowners reported their neighborhoods were deteriorating. Nearly one-fourth (24.7%) felt homes were decreasing in values.

Despite the fact that the majority of low income area residents reported housing dissatisfactions, many residents did not know which agency to contact about their problems. Sixty-eight percent of renters were dissatisfied with their house or apartment because of rats and roaches, insufficient storage space, high rents, or needed repairs; yet, one-third indicated they did not know of any agency other than their landlord to contact about housing problems.

Despite great housing dissatisfaction, many landlords delay services to low income area respondents. Forty-six percent of low income area renters reported having to wait longer than a week before receiving services from their landlords after contacting them about a problem. Nearly sixteen percent (15.8%) indicated they were rudely treated when they called for service.

Housing cost continues to increase for many low income area respondents without any change in housing conditions. One-third of low income area renters said their rents increased two or more times during the last three years. Two-thirds of renters experiencing rent increase reported no accompanying improvements.

The majority of renters who anticipated becoming homeowners reported they would not purchase a home in the area in which they lived. Over two-thirds (68.9%) of low income area residents with ownership expectations indicated they would not purchase in their area of residence.

AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF LOW INCOME HOUSING

Low income area respondents indicate housing problems continue to exist in New Orleans because of the cost of decent housing, the rate of construction of low cost units, and insufficient city services. Twenty-nine percent of survey respondents felt that decent housing is not available at a reasonable cost. Nearly eighteen percent (17.9%) felt that there were not enough low cost units constructed; and seventeen percent (17.2%) reported the city doesn't provide adequate services.

Low income area inhabitants are not only confronted with the problems of limited supply and high costs, but also with housing discrimination. Half of survey respondents reported having experienced housing discrimination because of their race or because they had children. Twenty-nine percent reported being discriminated against because of children; fourteen percent reported discrimination because of race.

The experiences of low income area respondents have caused many to abandon dreams of homeownership. An overwhelming majority of low income area respondents indicated that they want to become homeowners, yet many regard homeownership as impossible. Ninety-two percent of respondents reported their desires for homeownerhsip. However, of those respondents indicating a desire to own their own homes, only 54.4% believed homeownership a future possibility.

Even when ownership status is realized, it is not always maintained. Six percent of persons currently renting their homes or apartments reported they had previously lost homes through foreclosures.

MECHANISMS FOR HOUSING MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Though many low income area homeowners felt that their neighborhoods were deteriorating and their properties decreasing in value, less than one-fourth indicated a willingness to assume additional tax burdens. Only 22% of homeowners were willing to pay higher property taxes for improved city services. As a means of additional revenue, 48.3% of survey respondents believe that the city should tax vacant lands.

In an effort to obtain decent housing, many low income area residents have elected to move. Thirty-one percent of renters reported having moved at least once during the last two years. Of those persons who reported moving, almost seventy percent (69.5%) indicated they do so to find a better house. Nearly one out of four moved due to high rent (23.7%).

The majority of low income area residents either do not have or do not know of the existence of neighborhood improvement organizations in their area. Seventy-two percent of survey respondents did not have or were unaware of a neighborhood improvement associations in their community. Forty-six percent reported they lacked an organization in their area. Twenty-six percent did not know whether or not such an organization existed.

The main reason cited for the absence of a neighborhood improvement association was community apathy.

Sixty-four percent of persons who indicated there was no improvement association in their area cited the lack of enough interested persons as the primary cause.

Even in those areas where improvement organizations existed, over one-fourth (27.6%) of the respondents indicated their organizations had not been successful in pushing for housing improvements.

VIABLE OPTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Rehabilitation, new construction, improved city services and better enforcement of open housing policies were chosen by low income area respondents as viable solutions to the housing ills in New Orleans. Respondents ranked the solutions as follows: the construction of more low income housing (22%); improved city services in neglected neighborhoods (18%); better enforcement of open housing policies (17.9%) and more available financing (16.9%).

Rent control was considered a viable option to high rents by the majority of low income area respondents. Over half (53%) favored rent control as a solution to high rent.

The majority of low income area residents favor providing cash grants to the poor as an aid in securing decent housing. Nearly ninety percent (89.9%) of survey respondents felt that the federal government should provide cash grants to poor people for adequate housing.

Seventy-two percent of survey respondents felt it was the responsibility of government, primarily at the city level, to solve the New Orleans housing problem.

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That taking into consideration the limited financial and human resources available, a comprehensive housing strategy be developed which emphasizes simultaneously 1) the rehabilitation of existing houses; 2) new construction of moderate and low income units; 3) the coordination and channeling of capital funds to stimulate investments in low income areas; 4) improved community services to poor areas; and 5) changing state laws governing landlord/tenant relationships.

That additional ownership opportunities be provided for low and moderate income homeowners through the expansion of existing housing programs, such as The Turn Key III Homeownership program and through lobbying for realistic regulations regarding the existing 235 Homeownership Program. Governmental incentives should be provided to private developers to build low cost housing.

That decent, safe, and sanitary housing be made available to low and moderate income families by packaging low income housing under such programs as 236 and 202; by utilizing the present Section 8 program regarding new construction, rehabilitation and existing city codes, particularly those relating to condemnation. In addition, the city government should build and sponsor low and moderate income housing. The local and federal government should work together to identify and fund neighborhood revitalization programs.

That comprehensive counseling and maintenance services be funded without income eligibility restrictions requiring information on availabiltiy, fair market value, quality, and maintenance of property, particularly in blighted areas. These services would reduce mortgage defaults, aid in the formation of neighborhood improvement associations, and educate the consumer regarding his legal rights and responsibilities, especially with regard to the city's tax base. Additionally, a housing allowance should be made available for low income residents as a part of the counseling process.

That local efforts promote increased access to decent housing units currently available. HUD should provide a faster conciliation process and stricter enforcement of equal opportunity and fair housing laws. Landlords with habitual records of discrimination should be identified.

That an indepth study of housing conditions in New Orleans be conducted focusing especially on discrimination in housing, the escalation

> of housing costs, the differential delivery of city services to poor neighborhoods, and tenant/landlord relationships, particularly with regard to retaliatory eviction.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Since the majority of low income area respondents are renters, housing is of critical concern for this particular group of people. Many renters are dissatisfied with rising costs and insufficient upkeep both by landlords and city. Yet, many of them lack either the awareness or the means to address these problems. Therefore, they move as soon as more decent housing becomes available, until increasing rents force them to move again. Once they are given the opportunity to own a home, they move out of these areas altogether.

However, many respondents no longer believe homeownership possible. Confronted with escalating housing costs, poor, yet limited housing stocks, reduced city services, discrimination and limited incomes, many have abandoned all dreams of homeownership. Some who become homeowners find they can not afford to meet their mortgage payments; so once again, they become renters.

Low income area respondents who are fortunate enough to become homeowners are frustrated because their neighborhoods are deteriorating, causing their homes to decrease in value. Yet, they cannot afford the additional tax burden necessary to relieve the situation.

Eighty-three percent of survey respondents specified their occupancy status as renters. Only sixteen percent reported homeownership status.

Forty-six percent of low income area homeowners reported their neighborhoods were deteriorating.

Nearly one-fourth (24.7%) of homeowners reported their homes were decreasing in value.

Sixty-eight percent of renters indicated dissatisfaction with their present house or apartment because or rats and roaches; insufficient storage space; high rents or needed repairs.

One-third of respondents experiencing housing dissatisfactions indicated they did not know of any agency other than their landlord to contact about housing problems.

Forty-six percent of low income area renters reported having to wait longer than a week before receiving service from their landlords. Nearly sixteen percent (15.8%) indicated they were rudely treated when they called for service.

Two-thirds of renters experiencing rent increases reported no accompanying residential improvements.

Over two-thirds (68.9%) of low income area residents with ownership expectations reported they would not purchase a home in the area in which they live.

Twenty-nine percent of survey respondents felt that housing problems continue to exist in New Orleans because decent housing is not available at a reasonable cost. Seventeen percent felt there were not enough low cost units constructed and that the city doesn't provide adequate services.

Half of survey respondents indicated having experienced housing discrimination because of either their children or their race.

Ninety-two percent of low income area renters want to own their own home. Fifty-four percent believed ownership a future possibility.

Twenty-two percent of low income area homeowners indicated the willingness to pay higher property taxes for improved city services; 48.3% felt the city should tax vacant lands.

Of those persons who reported moving, almost seventy percent (69.5%) indicated they did so to find a better house. Nearly one out of four respondents (23.7%) moved due to high rents.

Seventy-two percent of low income area respondents didn't have or were unaware of neighborhood improvement association in their communities.

As solutions to the housing problems which exist in New Orleans, low income area respondents include the construction of more low income housing (22%); the need for improved city services to neglected neighborhoods (18%); better enforcement of open housing policies (17.9%); upgrade existing housing (15.7%); and more available financing (16.9%).

Over half (53%) of low income area renters considered rent control a viable option to high rents.

Nearly ninety percent (89.9%) of survey respondents felt that the federal government should provide cash grants to poor people for adequate housing.

Seventy-two percent of survey respondents felt it was the responsibility of government, primarily at the city level, to solve the New Orleans housing problems.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The hard core unemployed have lost all faith in the ability of society to find use for their ignored and undeveloped talents. Their life styles of disuse are slowly but certainly turning into lifetime patterns. They are the occasional object of attack by older adults who resigned themselves long ago to work long hours at hard work for inadequate pay.

Finding a job is more and more becoming an empty exercise in futility for hundreds or residents in a city unable to provide work for all who want it.

New Orleans is predominantly a service oriented economy, resulting in a lower wage structure and lower average growth in productivity. Poor education and job preparation among the poor and the reluctance of industry to relocate locally has produced a dual economy with blacks concentrated in the areas of service and labor.

New Orleans has a tradition of high unemployment and a history of ineffectively dealing with that problem. In 1960, unemployment among Orleans parish residents was 6.8%. It increased to 7.8% in 1970 and to 8.5% in 1972. During 1976, unemployment averaged 9.2%. In 1978, the unemployment rate is expected to average 9.7%, while unemployment among nonwhites is expected to exceed twelve percent, being 12.3% and 13.4% among nonwhite males and females.

Unemployment disproportionately affects nonwhite teenagers. Twenty-two percent (22.3%) of nonwhite male teenagers and nearly nineteen percent (18.7%) of nonwhite females are expected to be unemployed in 1978.

Unemployment in low income areas is especially critical. Its affect on impoverished communities negatively impacts a network of related areas such as crime, health, and education.

Documentation of the devastating effects of unemployment and underemployment on the poor follows in the EMPLOYMENT SERVICES SECTION.

The survey section on EMPLOYMENT SERVICES was designed to focus on the experiences, problems, and preferences of low income area respondents in the labor market. Significant findings, particularly with regard to job stability, utilization of available resources, and employment discrimination are included in this chapter.

SEVERITY OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT

A disproportionate amount of low income area respondents constitutes the unemployed sector of our community. Almost forty-six percent (45.7%) of survey respondents reported they were unemployed and actively seeking work.

The vast majority of persons who are unemployed and seeking work are looking for permanent employment. Permanent employment was sought by 73% of persons categorized as unemployed and actively seeking work; 62.9% were seeking permanent full time work, and 10.2% were seeking permanent part time work.

The possibility of permanent employment appears bleak when the experiences of the unemployed and of employed persons currently in the job market are considered. One out of four unemployed persons indicated they quit their last job primarily because of low pay or problems with their boss or co-worker. Twenty-two percent (21.8%) were either permanently or temporarily laid off; 11.4% were fired; 12.6% became disabled and 11.4% reported leaving for reasons of pregnancy.

Almost nineteen percent (18.6%) of persons categorized as unemployed and actively seeking work had never worked before. Thirty-seven percent reported having worked once; 44.2% reported having worked a minimum of two jobs in the last two years. Thirty-four percent of employed persons also reported having worked a minimum of two previous jobs during the last two years.

Some unemployed persons have been actively seeking employment for a considerable amount of time. Ten percent of the persons categorized as unemployed and seeking work had been unemployed for over a year. Over one-fifth (23.9%) reported they had been unemployed for more than six months, but less than a year. Four out of ten unemployed persons reported it has been less than six months since their last date of employment.

The experience of being unemployed has made many discouraged. Almost forty-four percent (43.8%) of persons seeking a job reported they did not expect to find a job soon.

The job seeking experiences of many low income area people are aggravated by the experiences of other members of their households. Forty-two percent of unemployed persons indicated there were other unemployed persons in their households.

WORKING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

Employment does not always end disenchantment with the labor force, but sometimes compounds negative experiences. Many low income area employees are dissatisfied because of low pay, poor working conditions, discrimination and problems with bosses or co-workers. Thirty-eight percent (37.6%) of employed persons reported being dissatisfied because of low pay; 15% reported dissatisfaction because of discrimination problems with their boss or co-workers; and 13.5% were dissatisfied with their working conditions.

One-fourth of employed respondents reported their usual rate of pay was $2.50 per hour or less. Nine percent of survey respondents reported having other full or part time jobs.

Eleven percent (11.2%) of employed persons reported that no job benefits were available to them on their jobs. Roughly two-thirds reported that pensions were unavailable. Half did not have health coverage or social security; and over 35% did not report having sick leave or vacation benefits.

Sixty-nine percent of low income area employees reported they had experienced employment discrimination. Of those persons who were discriminated against, 44.7% reported racial discrimination; 22.3% reported age discrimination; and 14% reported being discriminated against because of their particular sex or a biased test.

Seventy-eight percent (78.4%) of respondents felt that qualified women do not get equal job opportunities. Seventy-four percent of respondents felt that women receive less pay for equal work.

LABOR UNIONS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

To many low income area respondents, labor unions are perceived as nonresponsive to their needs. Thirty-nine percent felt that labor unions do not adequately represent the interest of the workers; 39.7% believed unions represented workers' interest; 21.2% were undecided.

Pre-employment services were considered inadequate by many low income residents. Forty-six percent (45.7%) reported that programs that help people choose adequate careers were insufficient.

Very few low income area respondents take advantage of the services provided by the Louisiana Department of Employment Services. Less than 16% of low income area respondents reported they had received pre-job counseling, job training, or financial assistance from LDES.

Many low income area respondents said their primary means of locating work was through newspaper ads or friends. Over half of the unemployed respondents reported they sought work through newspaper ads (51.3%). Other means included friends (37.2%); LDES (29.8%); private employment services (16.2%); and city job placement services (7.9%).

Thirty-seven percent of the employed respondents indicated they had obtained their jobs through friends, schools, or a non-profit employment agency; 14.1% found jobs by walk-ins to industry; and 11.2% through LDES.

Lack of jobs and experience, absence of job training for available jobs, poor education and discrimination were among the reasons given by low income area residents for the high rate of unemployment in New Orleans. Over one-fifth of survey respondents cited the unavailability of jobs (21.1%) and lack of experience (21.5%) as the primary reasons for unemployment. The quality of the educational system was considered a factor by 15.7% of respondents. Ten percent of low income area respondents cited discrimination as the primary factor.

Respondents' solutions to the unemployment problem in their city, include job training in schools, fighting right-to-work laws and the enforcement of equal employment opportunity laws. Twenty-eight percent recommended job training in schools; 18.3% suggested fighting right-to-work laws. Secondary recommendations included providing more job training (31.7%); attracting industry to New Orleans (14%); and providing more federal assistance programs (12.7%).

Forty-five percent (44.7%) of survey respondents felt that enforcement of fair employment laws was the most effective means of dealing with employment discrimination. Sixteen percent (16.3%) recommended boycotting employers who disciminate; 15.3% recommended passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; and 11.5% suggested an examination of job test procedures.

An overwhelming majority of survey respondents (90.9%) agreed that there should be more job training programs in this city provided by business and industry.

Three out of four respondents indicated employees should have more to say about how businesses and industries are run.

Two-thirds of low income area respondents felt that unemployment compensation was inadequate.

An overwhelming majority of survey respondents (97.3%) indicated that anyone who is willing and able to work should have a right to a job and guaranteed income.

Respondents also felt that more day care centers were needed for working mothers. Four out of five respondents recommended providing more day care centers.

Eighty-six percent (85.7%) of low income area respondents felt the minimum wage per hour should be $2.90 or higher.

Forced employment, relocation for employment, and reduction in the minimum wage for youths were not considered viable solutions to the unemployment problems by low income area respondents. Respondents felt very strongly (85%) that a person should not be forced to take a job which he does not like. Forty-two percent of unemployed persons reported they would not leave New Orleans if a job were available elsewhere. Seventy-nine percent (78.8%) did not believe the minimum wage should be reduced to solve the youth unemployment problem.

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That the city's manpower administration make every effort to increase the labor force participation rates of minorities.

That job training programs with career opportunities be provided by business and industry and subsidized by the federal government.

That greater financial support be provided by business and industry and subsidized by the federal government.

That extensive career education programs be sponsored to impact negative work attitudes and to provide more realistic career guidance.

That city and state governments, with assistance from industry, attempt to seek more federal aid to establish quality day care centers at or near job sites.

That EEOC resume the investigation and handling of class action suits and that an agency be provided on the municipal level with power to enforce fair employment laws.

That the city government make every attempt to create new job opportunities and develop adequate vocational-technical training programs.

That sources be provided to facilitate the creation and utilization of minority businesses.

That an impact study be conducted on the employment problems of low income employees and that appropriate strategies be developed to address these problems.

That employment agencies reassess their services delivery for low income area residents.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A disproportionate number of low income area respondents make up the ranks of the unemployed. The vast majority of unemployed persons are actively seeking work, and have been doing so for some time. Unable to find work, many of them are becoming discouraged. Their disenchantment with the job market is reinforced by the presence of other unemployed people in their households. Their plight is particularly acute.

The psychological effects of unemployment, discrimination in hiring, insufficient employment compensation, lack of employment services and non-responsive employment agents are tremendous. When these effects combine with the monetary limitations of actual employment, it is surprising that many still seek work. The employment experiences of low income area respondents are characterized by low paying, unskilled, meaningless jobs, frequent and sporadic employment, and insufficient job benefits. The institutional factors of employment discrimination, and poor education make their plight critical.

Low income area respondents perceive the reasons for unemployment as varied: an unattractive job market, a discrepancy between actual training and the training needed for available jobs; the city's inability to attract industry; discrimination; and a dearth of job training programs.

Almost forty-six percent (45.7%) of survey respondents reported they were unemployed and actively seeking work.

Permanent employment was sought by 73% of persons categorized as unemployed and actively seeking work.

One out of four unemployed persons seeking work indicated they quit their last job primarily because of low pay and problems with their boss or co-workers. Twenty-two percent (21.8%) were either permanently or temporarily laid off; 11.4% were fired; 12.6% became disabled; and 11.4% left for reasons of pregnancy.

Forty-four percent of unemployed persons reported having worked a minimum of two jobs in the last two years. Thirty-four percent of employed persons also reported having worked two or more jobs in the last two years.

Ten percent of persons categorized as unemployed and actively seeking work had been unemployed for over a year. Over one-fifth (23.9%) reported they had been unemployed from six to eleven months.

Forty-four percent (43.8%) of persons seeking a job reported they did not expect to find a job soon.

Forty-two percent of unemployed persons indicated there were other unemployed persons in their households.

Thirty-eight percent (37.6%) of employed persons reported job dissatisfaction because of low pay; 15% reported dissatisfaction because of discrimination or problems with their boss or co-workers; 13.5% were dissatisfied with their working conditions.

One-fourth of employed respondents reported their usual rate of pay was $2.50 per hour or less.

Nine percent of survey employees reported having additional full time or part time jobs.

Eleven percent (11.2%) of employed persons reported that no job benefits were available to them on their jobs. Two-thirds had no available pension plan. Half did not have health coverage or social security; and 35% did not have sick leave or vacation benefits.

Sixty-nine percent of low income area employees reported they had experienced employment discrimination because of their race, age, sex, or a test.

Seventy-eight percent (78.4%) of respondents felt that qualified women do not get equal job opportunities. Seventy-four percent felt that women receive less pay for equal work.

Thirty-nine percent of respondents felt that labor unions do not adequately represent the interest of the workers; 39.7% felt they were representative of workers' interest; and 21.2% were undecided.

Forty-six percent (45.7%) survey respondents reported an insufficiency of programs that help people choose suitable careers.

Less than 16% of low income area respondents reported they had received either pre-job counseling, job training or financial assistance from LDES.

Over half (51.3%) of unemployed respondents reported they located work through newspaper ads; other means included friends (37.2%); LDES (29.8%); walk-ins to business or industry (29.8%); private employment services (16.2%); and city job placement services (7.9%).

Thirty-seven percent of employed persons obtained their jobs through friends, schools, or a non-profit employment agency; 14% reported obtaining jobs by walk-ins to industry; and 11.2% through LDES.

EDUCATION

Several years in the local public school system is no guarantee that certain cycles of poverty which hold successive generations captive will be adequately broken. Of the 93,000 students in New Orleans public schools, more than 60% are from poor families. A deficient property taxation system and a rural orientated revenue allocation formula work to the disadvantage of the urban New Orleans schools in a state that ranked [illegible]4th in educational spending. Of the 50 largest school districts in the nation, the Orleans school district ranks 25th in size and 44th in per pupil expenditures, expending $1,021 per pupil annually.

Alongside public education is a local tradition of private and parochial education. Nearly a third of the city's children attend non-public schools. Most often these are children from upper and middle income families that are educationally motivated and financially secure but without a stake in the future of public education. To a large extent, the poorer disadvantaged students make up a poor and disadvantaged school system, neither of which can help the other.

Reactions to the crisis of education can be found in the following section on the EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

Project ASSIST findings regarding the level of educational attainment of survey respondents, their perception and level of involvement in the educational system, are revealed and discussed in this section.

SCHOOL ATTAINMENT

The level of educational attainment of low income area respondents falls below the city average. Forty-two percent (42.3%) of the population of New Orleans are high school graduates. This is 11% less than the average of the nation's fifty largest cities. The percentage of high school graduates among the Project ASSIST respondents income communities is 44.2%. Three percent (3.4%) of survey respondents reported they were college graduates.

THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Many low income area respondents find the quality of education in New Orleans low. Fifty percent of survey respondents believe Catholic schools provide a quality education. Thirty-five percent (34.8%) felt that predominately white colleges provide a good education. One third felt that public schools provided a quality education. Other private schools were believed to provide quality education by 28.7% of survey respondents. Predominantly black colleges were felt to provide quality education by only fourteen percent.

Although the quality of parochial schools was believed to be better than other educational institutions, this assumption is not based upon the personal experience of many respondents. Only eighteen percent of low income area respondents reported having children who attend private schools. The average number of children per household in attendance was 1.2.

The majority of those questioned had children in public schools. Fifty-two percent (52.2%) of survey respondents reported having children in public schools. The average number of children enrolled per household is 1.7.

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Despite the fact that the quality of education was perceived by many survey respondents to be low, many respondents are not actively involved in the school system and do not support it financially.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Many low income area respondents felt that public schools needed additional revenue, and that it was primarily the responsibility of all taxpayers to finance the public school system. Seventy-two percent (71.5%) of survey respondents felt that public schools were inadequately funded. The majority of survey respondents (57.1%) believed that all taxpayers are responsible for financially supporting the public school system; 18.9% felt that the primary responsibility belonged to government. Ten percent of survey respondents felt that providing additional revenues was the responsibility of parents.

The respondents were ambivalent regarding state support of private and parochial schools. Forty-eight percent (48.2%) of respondents felt that the state should not provide funds for private and parochial schools. Nearly forty percent (39.9%) did not express an opinion.

PERCEIVED PROBLEMS

Many low income area respondents felt that the school buildings in their neighborhood were not as good as those in more affluent neighborhoods. Over half (55%) of low income area residents indicated that the school buildings in their community were not as good as those elsewhere in the city.

Many felt that faculty members are unconcerned about their problems. Forty-one percent (40.9%) of low income area residents felt there was little use in contacting teachers and principals because they were not really interested in those problems.

Project ASSIST respondents reported they were most concerned about the lack of funding for supplies and facilities (17%); about discipline (14.3%); and the lack of qualified teachers and principals (13.7%); and about the extent of overcrowdedness in the public school system (13.8%).

CITIZEN SOLUTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHANGES

Improved discipline, joint decision making by educators and parents, changing the focus of curricula, increased funding and smaller classes were perceived by low income area respondents as viable solutions to the problems of the public school system. Suggestions for solving the problems of the public school system include improved discipline (42.1%); joint decisions by principals, parents, and teachers (14.4%); more emphasis on reading, writing and arithmetic (10.9%); increased funding (8.5%); and smaller classes (8.5%).

Fifty-one percent of survey respondents disagreed with the concept that it was important for children to attend schools in their own neighborhoods while, 42.4% agreed that it was important.

Although responses split on the issue of whether or not it was important for children to attend neighborhood schools, clearly busing was endorsed as a means of getting to quality education. Eighty-two percent (82.4%) of respondents felt that busing should be used to get children to the best schools.

Twenty-four percent (23.8%) of survey respondents felt it was primarily the responsibility of the school board to carry out these recommendations. Nearly nineteen percent (18.5%) felt the responsibility was that of parents. Sixteen percent of survey respondents felt it was the responsibility of the faculty, and ten percent (10.3%) felt the school superintendent was responsible for the implementation.

Approximately thirty-one percent (31.4%) of low income area respondents indicated they felt unable to control how their schools are run. Sixty-three percent (62.8%) indicated they felt able to influence the school system.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

An overwhelming majority of survey respondents emphasized the importance of pre-school education (98.9%); job/vocational programs (98.9%); adult education programs (98.2%); programs for the mentally or physically handicapped (97.8%); drug education programs (96.0%); and sex education programs (87.4%).

ATTITUDES REGARDING EDUCATORS

The survey population expressed the opinion that teachers have the right to choose schools for their own children and the right to engage in unionized job actions. Sixty-seven percent of low income area residents agreed that educators who teach in the public school system should not be forced to send their own children to these schools; twenty-eight percent (27.7%) disagreed.

Seventy-one percent (71.2%) of survey respondents agreed that teachers should have a right to strike; twenty percent (20.3%) disagreed.

The majority of low income area respondents (68.9%) did not agree with the statement that black teachers should teach black children because they could relate and serve as role models; twenty-five percent (24.9%) agreed with the statement.

THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION

The majority of survey respondents felt that achievement in schools affected success in the job market and adjustment to real life problems. Eighty-four percent (84.3%) of survey respondents felt that achievement in schools was related to getting a good job. Fifty-six percent (56.3%) of respondents felt that school training was helpful in meeting the problems of real life.

Although respondents agreed on the importance of industrial education, they were ambivalent about the impact of education upon industry. Responses differed on the issue of whether the quality of the school system served as a deterrent to new industry locating in New Orleans. Thirty-eight percent (38.3%) of survey respondents felt that industries choose not to locate in New Orleans because of the low quality of public schools. Thirty-seven percent (36.8%) did not feel this was the case.

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That a task force of area leaders be responsible for 1) providing the means of reaching accommodation among divergent interests, 2) selecting and devising strategies for obtaining needed resources, 3) raising citizens' awareness of the importance of public education to the economic and social well being of the community, and 4) mobilizing public and political support in behalf of the schools be created.

That citizens from low income areas be involved in all matters that concern public education, particularly in the decision making processes, the development of goals and objectives, the assessment of curricula, and the handling of disciplinary problems.

That a comprehensive study be undertaken to determine the financial needs of all elementary and secondary schools; and to investigate the possibilities that exist under applicable federal, state, and local laws for meeting these financial needs.

That a mechanism to communicate school programs and their effectiveness to the community on a regular basis be developed.

That a closer working arrangement be established between the school board, the city, and the business community; to share common resources i.e., computer systems, taxation, etc., and to devise ways in which the school system can meet the needs of the market place as well as satisfy the traditional goals of education.

That greater faculty accountability be provided through periodic evaluations.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The level of educational attainment among Project ASSIST respondents is low. They feel that the quality of education in New Orleans is generally low.

Although most have school age children, these respondents reported little involvement in school activities and little financial support of the school system. The task of providing additional revenues for the public school system was felt to be the responsibility of all taxpayers, not just the parents of students enrolled.

Many low income area respondents are dissatisfied with the school system because they believe their schools receive less materials and supplies while the upkeep of facilities is poorer. They believe principals and teachers are unconcerned and unqualified and schools are overcrowded and teeming with disciplinary problems.

Forty-four percent (44.2%) of low income area respondents were high school graduates. Four percent (3.9%) were college graduates.

Fifty percent of survey respondents felt that Catholic Schools provided a quality education. Thirty-five percent (34.8%) of respondents felt that predominantly white colleges provided a good education. Public schools (33.0%), other private schools (28.7%) and predominantly black colleges (14%) were believed to provide a quality education.

Eighteen percent of Project ASSIST respondents reported having children enrolled in private schools. Fifty-two percent (52.2%) reported their children were enrolled in public schools.

Seventy-two percent (71.6%) of survey respondents felt that public schools were inadequately funded.

The majority of survey respondents (57.1%) believed that all taxpayers are responsible for supporting the public school system financially.

Forty-eight percent (48.2%) of low income area residents felt that the state should not provide funds for private and parochial schools.

Fifty-five percent of respondents indicated that school buildings in their communities were not as good as those elsewhere in the city.

Forty-one percent (40.9%) of low income area respondents felt there was little use contacting teachers and principals because they were not really interested in the respondents' problems.

Solutions offered by low income area respondents to the problems that exist in the New Orleans school system include improvement in discipline (42.1%); joint decisions by principals, parents, and teachers (14.4%); more emphasis on reading, writing and arithmetic (10.9%); increased funding (8.5%) and smaller classes (8.5%).

Fifty-one percent of survey respondents did not feel it was important for children to attend schools in their own neighborhoods.

Eighty-two percent (82.4%) of respondents felt that busing should be used to provide the best schools for children.

Twenty-four percent (23.8%) of respondents felt it was the primary responsibility of the school board to carry out their recommendations; 18.5% felt it was a parental responsibility; and 16% felt it was the faculty's responsibility.

Nearly sixty-three percent (62.8%) of respondents felt that they were able to control how their schools were run.

An overwhelming majority of survey respondents indicated the importance of pre-school education and job-vocational programs (98.9%); adult education programs (98.2%); programs for the mentally or physically handicapped (97.8%); drug education programs (96%); and sex education programs (87.4%).

Sixty-seven percent of low income area residents indicated that educators who teach in the public school system should not be forced to send their own children to these schools.

Seventy-one percent (71.2%) of survey respondents agreed that teachers should have a right to strike.

The majority of low income area respondents (68.9%) did not believe that only black teachers should teach black children.

Eighty-four percent of survey respondents felt that achievement in school was related to getting a good job.

Fifty-six percent (56.3%) of respondents felt that school training was of help in meeting the problems of real life

Thirty-eight percent of survey respondents felt that industries do not locate in New Orleans because of the low quality of the public schools; 36.8% of respondents disagreed.

HEALTH SERVICES

The woman looked middle-aged but she carried herself slowly and with great effort as if she had survived several life times. She kept her eyes lowered and only raised them to lend emphasis to her physical ailments while she brought bottle after bottle of pills from her purse, introducing each by its formal medical name. She was an expert on her illness, the result of countless trips to the neighborhood health clinic and Charity Hospital. She respected these determents to her failing health. Long sighs divided her phrases as if at any moment she would give up altogether and succumb to the unbearable burden that had become her life.

More poor blacks suffer from poor health now than ever before. Headaches, heart trouble, anxiety form clusters of symptoms that incapacitate purpose and tax productivity. The poor who were once compensated for their reduced material wealth by the envied wealth of good health are not envied anymore as changing diet, environmental factors, the overwhelming pressure of poverty and discrimination, frustration and a pervasive helplessness combine to breakdown physical stamina and take toll on bodies that "just can't take it any more". A projected 30% of the total adult population and 36% of the black population suffer from hypertension while similar statistics show high blood pressure in children 2% and 10% respectively.

Thirteen percent of all children need some form of professional help in the area of mental health, while as many as 25% of infants and children remain unimmunized against dreaded diseases such as diptheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and polio. An estimated 5,000 pregnant women each year receive inadequate prenatal care, frequently resulting in nutritional deficiencies, low birth weight and mental retardation in infants.

Health of the economically disadvantaged is increasingly dependent upon an ability to meet the rising costs of care, since the health advantages of poverty are no longer operative.

What were once the poor's health advantages have become disadvantages. The effect of this revesal is examined in the following section on HEALTH SERVICES.

Findings in the survey section on health care are primarily grouped into four major categories: KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF CARE, SOURCES AND QUALTIY OF CARE, SERVICE DELIVERY PROBLEMS, AND SOLUTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

Findings in the area of KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF HEALTH CARE give an overview of respondents general health status and their awareness of the availability of services. The frequency with which medical attention is sought is also included in this category.

Respondents' knowledge of primary sources of routine and emergency medical care are revealed in the category on SOURCES AND QUALITY OF CARE. Patient perceptions of services, health care providers, and those institutions or agencies that administer care are also included in this section.

The effects of the escalating costs necessary to obtain quality medical services are included in SERVICE DELIVERY PROBLEMS. This section also includes findings in the other problem areas of crisis care, adequacy of health insurance benefits, and information on the availability of health services.

SOLUTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION offers citizen solutions to the problem of providing quality care, while it identifies those individuals or institutions responsible for implementing these solutions.

KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESSIBILITY TO CARE

Most low income area residents in metropolitan New Orleans believe that black people are less healthy today than they were in previous years. Almost half (49.2%) of survey respondents felt that black people are generally less healthy than they were ten year ago.

Although low income area residents reported that they were generally aware of where to go to obtain emergency care, the frequency of health maintenance is cause for concern. An overwhelming majority (86.8) of low income residents reported that they generally know where to go to obtain care when they are ill.

75

Of those persons obtaining medical care, 40.6% stated that they only obtained care either some of the time (22.3%), very seldom (9.8%), or never at all (8.5%). More than one-third (35.4%) of those receiving medical attention revealed that they had not had a complete physical examination within the last two (2) years. In addition, sixty percent (60.2%) of the respondents reported not having received dental care; seventy-six (76.1%) percent had not received a sickle cell anemia examination; and sixty-three percent (63%) of the female respondents had never received a Pap smear.

Of those who never seek medical attention, fifty-eight percent (57.7%) indicated that they were unable to afford the cost of medical care. In addition, forty-two percent (42.3%) of the respondents reported they did not receive medical care when needed because they did not have a family doctor.

SOURCES AND QUALITY OF CARE

Public health facilities are the primary source of care for the majority of survey respondents. Almost half (49.4%) stated that a public clinic (27.3%) or hospital (22.1%) was their usual source of medical care.

Less than half (43.1%) of those survey respondents reported that they obtained care from a private doctor. An overwhelming majority (83.4%) consider their personal physician competent.

Of those persons rating the care obtained from a neighborhood clinic to that of a private clinic, 40.5% indicated that the quality of services was about the same. Medical care at Charity Hospital was considered comparatively worse than that of other hospitals by 40.9% of survey respondents.

SERVICE DELIVERY PROBLEMS

The most severe service delivery problem of the health care system experienced by low income residents is the difficulty in obtaining quality and adequate medical care because of its high cost.

The spiraling cost of medical attention has made adequate medical care more inaccessibile and has resulted in the fragmentation of health care for the poor. A reduction in the overall spending for medical attention was reported by 41.8% of survey respondents. Over one-third (34.0%) said that their prescriptions had to go unfilled due to the high cost involved.

Most of the survey respondents lacked an adequate health insurance plan or policy that could absorb some of the medical expense. Approximately sixteen percent (15.8%) indicated that they considered the cost of health insurance to be too high. Forty-eight percent of low income residents reported that they either did not have adequate health insurance (39.5%) or had no health insurance at all (3.6%). Of those employed persons responding, 48.3% reported missing at least one to two weeks of work without pay.

In addition to high medical cost, other service delivery problem areas identified by citizens included long waiting periods for emergency care considered a severe problem by twenty-two percent (22.2%) of survey residents. Over fourteen percent (14.3%) of the respondents indicated a need for more information regarding the availability of health services in the City of New Orleans.

SOLUTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Reduction of medical costs, the provision of better clinics and hospitals, and improved service delivery were perceived as solutions to the problem of obtaining quality health care by low income area residents. The reduction of medical cost constituted forty percent (35.9%) of the responses. The need to provide better clinics and hospitals and the need to improve present service delivery accounted for 47.5% and 21.0% of the responses respectively.

A majority of the respondents felt that the medical profession (36.6%), the community (23.6%), and the government (49.4%) were jointly responsible for solving health problems in the New Orleans area.

The escalating cost of adequate medical care forces low income residents to look to the federal government for relief through the development of a comprehensive health program. An overwhelming majority (86.7%) felt that the federal government should implement a national health insurance plan. In addition, over two-thirds (68.4%) of those responding felt that doctors' fees should be subject to federal regulation.

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That a coordinating agency with emphasis on information dissemination and services referral to provide linkages among service agencies be developed.

That medical management programs emphasizing preventative and restorative dental health care as a part of community health education efforts be developed.

That the traditional service hours of existing neighborhood clinics be expanded to provide comprehensive twenty-four hour, seven (7) days a week outpatient service in underserved low income areas.

That equal accessibility to quality medical care, not restricted by income, be provided through a comprehensive national health insurance program. This legislation would help to remove the stigma associated with patients' reliance upon public health care facilities and allow for the diffusion of these patients into the delivery system, as well as regulate the cost of services.

That local agencies providing health care increase the use of paraprofessionals such as physician assistants and nonpractitioners in poor areas. Additionally, special incentives should be provided to physicians and other health professionals to relocate in these underserviced areas.

That studies in health care cost containment be conducted, focusing on economizing extensive hospitalization, eliminating unwarranted tests and prescribing the use of generic drugs instead of pharmaceutical products in relation to existing health insurance benefit plans.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The majority of low income area respondents depend on public health care facilities for routine and emergency medical care. Although, there is discernable difference in the quality of care provided by these institutions, the need to provide better facilities and improve services delivery are the major concerns cited by survey residents.

Though many have expressed a general knowledge of these service facility sites, high medical cost has severely limited the respondents' ability to obtain adequate care. Therefore, many have either deferred necessary medical attention or reduced their medical care budget.

Even those respondents with health insurance plans have found that the benefits derived are usually insufficient and costly.

Forty-nine and two-tenths percent of survey respondents felt that black people are generally less healthy today than they were ten years ago.

Eighty-six percent of respondents reported having general knowledge of emergency medical care.

Forty percent of low income residents seek medical attention either some of the time, very seldom, or never.

Sixty percent of survey respondents reported not having received proper dental care.

Forty-nine and four-tenths percent of persons usually go to a public clinic or hospital. Over forty percent (40.5%) felt that the quality of care provided by private clinics was about the same.

More than forty percent (42.3%) of survey area respondents do not have a family doctor.

Nearly sixty percent (57.7%) have never had medical attention because they were unable to afford the cost.

Forty-one percent (48.8%) have reduced their overall medical care. Thirty-four percent do not get their prescriptions filled due to high cost.

Forty-eight percent reported either having inadequate health insurance or none at all.

Over forty-eight percent (48.3%) of employed persons reported missing at least one to two weeks of work without pay because of insufficient health insurance benefits.

Thirty-five percent of low income residents favored the reduction of medical costs; others emphasize the need to provide better clinics and hospitals (47.5%) and improve the present services delivery (21.0%).

Eighty-six and seven tenths percent felt that the federal government should implement a national health insurance plan.

Over two-thirds (68.4%) felt that doctors fees should be subject to federal regulation.

Low income area respondents feel that it is the joint responsibility of the government (49.4%), the medical profession (36.6%) and the community (23.6%) to solve the health problems in the New Orleans area.

ADEQUACY OF CITY SERVICES

Living spaces are jammed closely together, leaving little room for greenery before cracked sidewalks appear. Stray dogs feed off of overturned garbage cans that should have been picked up the night before. The streets are scarred with holes so wide and deep that residents refer to them as "moon craters". Drivers dodge these potholes and honk their horns impatiently at juveniles who've turned the asphalt and concrete surface into their own private playing area, blocking occasional traffic. The official playground, several blocks away is overgrown with weeds, broken bottles and infested with rats. Shattered swings wound tightly around rusted transoms and battered equipment stand in quiet disuse. Cars are parked tightly along the street, blocking the view of people who sit on porch stoops having traded the stuffy enclosure of life inside for the freer air of a still greatly crowded outdoors. But higher, more invisible walls remain.

The face of a low income neighborhood reflects the familiar partnership of blight and neglect. In any given year, over 10,000 callers bring to the attention of city government streets in need of repair and unkempt vacant lots. Similar complaints regarding garbage and trash collection, stray animals, and rodent control plague a city government greatly in need of additional revenue. However, the problem of overdue city services remains and reinforces a prevailing belief among the inhabitants of low income areas that to be poor is to expect and receive poor service.

This conviction is upheld by the low income respondents who were surveyed and is revealed in the section on the ADEQUACY OF CITY SERVICES.

Findings from the Project ASSIST survey section on the Adequacy of City Services are grouped under six major headings: MASS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION; UNDERUTILIZED NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATIONAL FACILITIES; PARTICIPATION IN NORD SUMMER PROGRAMS; QUALITY OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES; RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT; AND CONSUMER PROTECTION.

The category of MASS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION includes findings pertaining to respondents' use of public transit. Also included in this category are respondents' perceptions of the operational mechanism and procedure of public transit.

Contained in the category of UNDERUTILIZED NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATIONAL FACILITIES are findings regarding the proximity and use of recreational facilities. Low income residents' perception of the need for additional recreational facilities and potential sources for these additional facilities are also reported.

The section, PARTICIPATION IN NORD SUMMER PROGRAMS, explores the citizen use and evaluation of available summer recreational programs offered by the city.

Reported under the QUALITY OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES heading are findings pertaining to the respondents' perception of problems encountered in the upkeep of their neighborhoods as well as their perception of the quality of city service maintenance in their area.

Included in RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT is a list of agents whom residents consider most responsible for changing the quality of city services they receive.

CONSUMER PROTECTION presents findings regarding residents' experiences in consumer fraud, their utilization of consumer rights protection agencies, and the adequacy of services obtained from these agencies.

MASS PUBLIC TRANSPORATION

The majority of low income residents must depend upon public transit daily. More than half (54.2%) of survey respondents indicated that they use public transportation all (28.2%) or most of the time (26.1%).

Of those persons who use public transit, forty-five percent (44.8%) rated the transportation service they receive as unsatisfactory.

A majority of survey respondents felt that the operation of public transit should be the responsibility of the City. Seventy-one percent (70.7%) of low income respondents felt the city administration should operate public transit.

Many area residents felt that there should be one public transit system for the metropolitan area. Fifty-two percent (51.8%) of survey respondents indicated that there should be one transit system for Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes.

An overwhelming majority of survey respondents believe that the elderly should have reduced transit rates. Over ninety percent (92.2%) of respondents reported that senior citizens should be allowed reduced transit fares.

UNDERUTILIZED NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Many low income area residents indicated the need to have more parks and playgrounds near their homes.

Thirty-five percent of survey respondents reported that no park or playground existed within walking distance of their homes. Of those respondents lacking these facilities, eighty-eight percent (88.1%) want to have a park or playground nearby.

Many residents who have parks or playgrounds near their homes rarely use these facilities. Nearly forty-eight percent (47.8%) of these respondents with parks or playgrounds near their homes indicated that they seldom used these facilities (31.1%) or not at all (16.7%). Major reasons for not using the facilities were poor equipment (34.0%), lack of safety (20.8%), not enough activities offered (24.5%) and poor supervision of sports (24.5%).

Although residents reported limited use of neighborhood recreational facilities due to inferior equipment and poor supervision of the areas, seventy-two percent (72.3%) of area respondents felt there should be more parks and playgrounds in their neighborhoods. Use of public school play areas was considered one means of providing additional neighborhood recreational facilities by 71.2% of the respondents.

PARTICIPATION IN NORD SUMMER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Many low income area residents take advantage of summer recreational programs offered by the City of New Orleans. Almost forty-seven percent (46.8%) of survey respondents indicated that either they or some member of their family participated in the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) Summer programs. Of those persons participating in the summer programs, forty-five percent (44.6%) rated the quality of these programs as fair (40.0%) or poor (4.6%).

QUALITY OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Many low income area residents reported that their neighborhoods suffer because of inadequate city service maintenance in their areas. Low income residents indicated that they encounter problems with pests (59.4%), stray animals (53.8%), empty lots (24.4%), abandoned homes (26.3%) and parked cars (43.1%).

Survey area respondents also rated the quality of city service maintenance as unsatisfactory. Unsatisfactory ratings were reported for the quality of neighborhood beautification programs (84.0%), pest control (77.1%) sidewalk and street maintenance (76.9%); parks and playgrounds upkeep (61.2%), police protection (60.0%), garbage and trash collection (56.5%) and quality of schools and libraries (34.8%).

Seventy-four percent of survey respondents did not feel that the city maintained the same level of service in their neighborhoods that it did elsewhere.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT

Almost forty-seven percent (46.9%) of low income respondents felt that the Mayor and city officials were primary responsible for improving the quality of city services in their area. One in four delegated responsibility to registered voters (25.6%) and neighborhood organizations (27.5%).

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Low income residents are unfamiliar with their legal rights as consumers. Experiences with fraudulant purchasing practices have not prompted many to contact agencies capable of redress. Nearly forty-six percent (45.6%) of low income respondents indicated that they were unfamiliar with their legal rights as consumers.

A high incident of consumer fraud was reported by low income residents. Almost forty-eight percent (47.5) of area respondents reported being "ripped off"or defrauded in their purchase of goods and services.

Though area residents have experienced many incidents of consumer fraud, very few have contacted the city's Office of Consumer Affairs for assistance or received any positive results. Only thirty-one percent (31.3%) of those persons reporting fraud had ever contacted the City of New Orleans' Office of Consumer Affairs for assistance. Almost fifty-eight percent (57.9%) of those persons who sought assistance from the city reported that they were unable to get any positive action.

The majority of area residents believe that fees for unregulated professional services should be advertised. Residents favored the advertisement of fees for doctors (69.0%), lawyers (66.3%), dentists (65%) and the cost of prescription drugs (70.6%).

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That a regional transit authority be created to serve as the management agency for public transit in the city of New Orleans. The transit authority would divest New Orleans Public Service, Inc., of its transit operations and establish a singular transit system for the metropolitan area.

That existing neighborhood recreational facilities be upgraded. A larger percentage of COBG funds should be allocated for equipment purchases to replace dilapidated structures and provide more sports activity. Additionally, improvements in facility maintenance, supervision, and security for neighborhood parks and playgrounds should be joint responsibility of the City's recreation department that manages these facilities and neighborhood groups that use these facilities.

That efforts be made to expand New Orleans Recreation Department's *After School Program* and provide additional recreational areas in low income areas where they are presently lacking. These efforts would provide greater visibility of NORD program activities and encourage greater participation by neighborhood residents in underserved areas.

That quality of city services provided to low income areas be improved through the elimination of "redlining" practice which allows unequal services by favoring the upkeep of designated tourist and business district areas. Concerted efforts should be made to realign refuse collection procedures and street cleaning and flushing schedules in low income areas according to volume and need. The city's "paving lien" program should be redesigned to make street paving and repair services available to low income residents at lower interest rates than are presently available. Other municipal services such as police protection, pest control, and neighborhood maintenance should be upgraded. Information regarding the pickup of stray animals should be made available by SPCA to neighborhood organizations and community centers.

That an extensive consumer education and information program be provided in low income areas. Consumer education and information programs would become an integral part of the scope of services provided by neighborhood centers. Such programs would be designed to acquaint community residents with their legal rights as consumers, examine existing and proposed federal and local consumer protection legislation and provide information on grievance procedures and agencies that assist victims of consumer fraud.

That efforts be made to strengthen local consumer protection laws, increase the effectiveness of local consumer affairs agencies, and provide satellite offices in these areas to handle consumer grievances.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The majority of low income residents depend upon the city's public transit system for transportation. Many who ride the buses find the services unsatisfactory. Significant changes in the operation of the present transit system suggested by area residents include the transfer of operational responsibility to the city administration, the development of one metropolitan transit system, and the reduction of fares for the elderly.

Respondents were also dissatisfied with the quality of city services, citing inferior recreational facilities, inadequate environmental services and insufficient city maintenance. They felt that the city administration is primarily responsible for improving these services.

Fifty-four percent of survey respondents use public transportation all or most of the time. Forty-five (44.8%) percent of the users find the service unsatisfactory.

Seventy-one percent of low income residents believed that the city administration should operate public transit.

Fifty-two percent of respondents indicated that there should be one transit system for the New Orleans metropolitan area.

Over ninety percent (92.2%) of area respondents felt that senior citizens should be allowed reduced public transit fares.

Eighty-eight percent of survey respondents reported having no park or playground in their areas and want one near their homes. Seventy-two percent of residents wanted more parks and playgrounds in their neighborhoods.

Nearly forty-eight percent (47.8%) of respondents with parks and playgrounds near their homes indicated that they used these facilities seldomly or not at all due to poor equipment (34.0%), a lack of safety (20.8%), poor supervision of sports and not enough activities offered (24.5%).

Seventy-one percent of survey respondents indicated that public school play areas should be used as additional recreational areas.

Nearly forty-five percent (44.6%) of the respondents who participated in NORD summer recreational programs, rated the quality of the services as fair or poor.

Seventy-four percent of survey respondents indicated they did not feel that the city maintained the same level of services in their neighborhoods that it did elsewhere.

Low income residents reported having problems with pests (59.4%), stray animals (53.8%), empty lots (24.4%), abandoned houses (26.3%), and parked cars (43.1%).

Unsatisfactory ratings of city services were given for beautification programs (84.0%), pest control (77.1%), sidewalk and street maintenance (76.9%); parks and playgrounds (61.2%), police protection (60.0%), and garbage and trash collection (56.5%).

Fifty-seven percent felt it was the responsibility of the mayor and the city officials to improve the quality of city services.

Nearly forty-six percent (45.6%) are unfamiliar with their legal rights as consumers.

Almost forty-eight percent (47.5%) of area respondents reported being "ripped off" or defrauded in purchasing goods or services.

Only thirty-one percent (31.3%) of those persons reporting fraud contacted the Office of Consumer Affairs for assistance, while fifty-eight percent of those got negligible results.

SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Several problems impede the development of new economic opportunity locally. Rather than risk money in business ventures, holders of wealth prefer to invest in real estate and blue chip stock. Large corporations generally use banks in the city of their home office. Since New Orleans is the home of few national concerns, bank deposits remain limited. Local banks are skeptical of unproven ventures and capital is scarce. Once formed, the longevity of small businesses is threatened by deficiencies in the efficiency and experience of its management.

Nationally, 930 out of 1,000 business eventually fail, merge, or cease to exist each year.

Businesses that depend upon the support of members of a low income area neighborhood add more variables that weigh heavily in the direction of failure.

A system of doubt and expectation exists within the minds of members of the low income community. Residents want businesses in their community to succeed, but expect them to fail.

The following data on respondents' attitudes toward SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES supports this tendency in the disadvantaged community.

The findings in the survey section on Small Business Opportunities are categorized under four major headings: BUSINESS OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES, INVESTMENT INCENTIVES, and GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY.

Black business ownership capabilities and factors which limit the availability of ownership opportunities are the primary focus of BUSINESS OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

The category MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES deals with the factors which limit the profitable management of business by Blacks.

Respondents' perceptions of the contributing elements of a successful business, willingness to invest in such ventures, and conditional requirements of such an investment are included in the area INVESTMENT INCENTIVES.

The category GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY presents respondents' perceptions of government aid to small businessmen. It identifies those mechanisms responsible for implementing change in perceived problem areas.

BUSINESS OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Low income area respondents reported that business ownership opportunities were limited for Blacks in the New Orleans area due to limited capital investment by financial lending institutions. Over three-fifths (72.6%) of survey respondents indicated that Black people are restricted in business ownership opportunities.

Of those persons who believe that business opportunities are limited for Blacks, sixty-one percent (61.2%) felt the primary reason was the unwillingness of financial institutions to loan Blacks money; fifty-five percent (55.3%) indicated the cost of start up money was a factor; and forty-two percent (42.5%) felt Blacks lacked awareness of investment possibilities.

MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

A vast majority of low income area residents expressed great confidence in the management abilities of Blacks. Three out of four respondents reported they felt Blacks were capable of owning and operating a business.

Survey area respondents offered a variety of reasons for the success of many Blacks owned and operated businesses. Almost thirty percent (27.9%) of respondents believed that success was attributed to well trained managers and professional staff. Sixteen and three-tenths percent indicated that the availability of financing and tax breaks were contributing factors; fourteen percent (14.4%) indicated community support.

Despite the fact that survey respondents felt that Blacks were capable of managing a business, many residents indicated that Blacks are limited in their management ability. Two fifths (42.5%) of the respondents believed that Black people are limited in their ability to manage any type of business profitably. The majority (79.2%) felt this limitation was the result of the lack of business training. Over half (54.2%) of those persons felt that the lack of management experience was an important factor; 52.1% felt that lack of formal education was the limiting factor.

Although Blacks are felt to be limited in management skills, many low income area residents are willing to support Black businesses. Almost forty-four percent (43.8%) of survey respondents said they would support Black businesses if managers were inexperienced, but well trained; twenty-eight percent (28.5%) were willing to pay higher prices of quality goods; and seventeen percent (16.8%) would support Black businesses even if a wide selection of goods were not available.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The experiences of local Black owned and operated businesses have not created an atmosphere of mistrust and disillusionment among low income residents in the New Orleans area. Seven out of ten respondents (70.7%) indicated that despite the experience of the Republic National Bank, that they would invest in another Black owned and operated bank if one were started. Fifty-one percent of low income area respondents felt that Superdome Services Incorporated (SSI) had been effective. Additionally, about sixty-five percent (64.7%) indicated SSI had been beneficial to the Black community.

Although there is a willingness of low income area respondents to invest into either a Black owned and operated business or a community owned business, this investment is contingent on the opportunity for a profitable return. Three out of four respondents indicated a willingness to invest in a Black owned and operated business provided the return would be comparable to a return on investment in a white owned and operated business.

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of survey respondents reported a willingness to invest in a community owned business with the potential for profit.

GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

The majority of low income area residents felt that the federal government and its programs designed to aid minorities in small business are virtually ineffective. Over two-thirds (71.3%) of the respondents felt that the federal government was not doing all it could to help the black businessman. Only thirty-three percent of low income residents felt that the Small Business Administration (SBA) was effective.

Over half (54.8%) felt that the government, primarily at the federal level (26.1%) and city level (20.9%) should solve the problems of the small businessman.

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That a mechanism be developed to increase the awareness and involvement of minority and small businessmen in business opportunities through participation on boards and commissions which coordinate economic and business development activities at the state and local level.

That a comprehensive education and training program be developed in conjunction with local universities to acquaint minority and small businessmen with entrepreneural skills and cooperative ventures. Such a program would utilize the technical expertise of local professional businessmen in the areas of corporate management, accounting, banking, entrepreneurship and law. In addition, management training should be provided for potential small businessmen in city agencies through the use of on-the-job-training funds.

That the course "Operation and Analysis of the Free Enterprise System" including entrepreneural assessment techniques be offered in all public senior high schools.

That minority and small business participation be increased through the establishment of a local Office of Minority Business Enterprise to be primarily responsible for coordinating and implementing federal set aside activities in the New Orleans area.

That greater state involvement in small business be encouraged in the areas of finance, education, and technical assistance to increase the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration. The provision of these supportive services would increase the potential for participation in economic and business development opportunities for minority and commercial growth and urban revitalization.

That local government resources having the direct responsibility of disseminating information about potential business opportunities to the minority business community be developed. These opportunities would be created in association with anticipated industrial growth, resulting from the provision of city services such as sanitation, transportation, environmental protection and tourism.

That local efforts be focused on increasing the support and commitment of metropolitan New Orleans financial institutions to minority and small businessmen through the development of a high risk loan pool. Participation of local financial institutions and corporations would assist minorities in securing funds for venture capital. These efforts would stimulate minority entrepreneurship and encourage full participation of inner city residents in community based enterprises.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Low income area respondents believed business ownership and management opportunities to be limited for the Black citizens. Altough Blacks are considered capable of owning and operating a business, respondents felt that Blacks continue to be limited in business opportunities by limited financial resources for investment and business expansions.

The enhancement of the management skills of Blacks by training, experience and formal education were considered to be solutions to existing management problems.

The willingness of low income area respondents to invest in a minority or community owned and operated business was not based on past investment experiences but was dependent on the potential for profitable return on investment.

Almost seventy-three percent (72.6%) of survey respondents felt that blacks are limited in business ownership opportunities.

Sixty-one percent (61.2%) of low income residents felt that blacks are limited because of an unwillingness of financial institutions to loan them money; 55.3% felt the cost of start-up money was a factor; and 42.4% felt blacks lacked awareness of investment possibilities.

Seventy-five percent of respondents reported that blacks were capable of owning and operating a big business.

Two-fifths (42.5%) of low income area respondents indicated that black people are limited in their ability to manage any type of business profitably.

Seventy-nine percent (79.2%) of survey respondents felt that blacks were limited in management skills due to the lack of business training; fifty-four percent (54.2%) indicated the lack of management experience; and fifty-two percent 52% indicated the lack of formal education.

Forty-four percent (43.8%) of respondents are willing to support black businesses if managers were inexperienced, but well trained; twenty-eight percent (28.5%) are willing to pay higher prices for quality goods; seventeen percent (16.8%) indicated support, even if a wide selection of goods were not available.

Three out of four respondents reported a willingness to invest in a black owned and operated business provided the return would be comparable to a return on investment in a white owned and operated business.

Seventy-eight percent (78.8%) of respondents indicated a willingness to invest in a community owned business with the potential for profitability.

Only thirty-three percent of low income residents felt the Small Business Administration was effective.

Seventy-one percent of respondents reported that the federal government was not doing all it could to help the black businessmen.

Over half of respondents (54.8%) indicated that it was the duty of the federal (26.1%) and local government (20.9%) to solve the problems of the small businessman.

THE QUALITY OF THE MEDIA

The movie houses project scenes of sex, crime, and violence, while prime time television reduces reality to buffoonery and meaning to ridicule. Radio stations broadcast blatant messages of immorality and newspaper sacrifice good journalism to the demands of its advertisers.

Apart from the efforts of black newspapers, black oriented radio, and a smattering of public affairs programs, media in the crescent city has maligned and manipulated, distorted and denied poor blacks constructive and consistent public exposure. Of the five television and eighteen radio stations; two daily and six weekly newspapers, the percentage of time and space devoted to black concerns is miniscule and lacks impact.

Television influences low income residents as no other medium can, due to its accessibility and constant use in poor households. Yet, despite FCC regulations, most commercial television stations in New Orleans are unyielding in their lack of sensitivity and response to the black community, ranking lowest of all cities of comparable size in the categories of news programming, public affairs, and minority employment.

The local media outlets perpetuate a tradition of exclusion and superiority, steadfast in their duty of fashioning and controlling the information that come its way, ironic in its chosen position of opponent rather than facilitator of much needed change.

A consensus by survey respondents on the aforementioned inequities and discrepancies of media coverage of the black community appears in the following section on the QUALITY OF THE MEDIA.

The following statements on the Quality of the Media give an overview of media coverage of blacks past and present. Respondents' dissatisfactions with media coverage and perception of the overall quality of media programming and its impact on the black community are also covered in this section. Low income area residents' overall perceptions of locally produced black programs and specific problem areas are included. Also reported are changes citizens feel will improve the quality of media programming.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF BLACKS

Despite a consensus among low income areas residents that the overall image of blacks as depicted by the media has improved, many respondents felt that the news accounts of the black community tend to be inaccurate and distorted. Only thirty percent (29.5%) of the respondents reported that the image of blacks in the media has gotten worse during the last ten (10) years.

Many survey area residents were dissatisfied with the newspaper coverage of events in the black community. Almost sixty-nine percent (68.8%) of the respondents reported that the daily newspapers do not adequately report the news of the black community. Of these persons reporting, forty-one percent (41.4%) felt that the black newspapers do not represent the interest of the black community.

Although the majority of low income area residents rely on television as their primary souce of news, many respondents were dissatisfied with its account of criminal offenses allegedly committed by blacks. Seventy-four percent of respondents are dependent upon television as their usual source of news. Of those persons reporting, 55.4% reported a dependence on the radio for news and forty-three percent rely upon the daily newspaper.

The overemphasis on black crimes was cited by New Orleans survey area residents as the major dissatisfaction with the reportage of local news events. Survey respondents indicated that too much emphasis was placed on black crimes in both television and newspaper accounts of such incidents by 56.8% and 50.0% respectively. Almost thirty percent (29.7%) reported an overemphasis on black crime by local radio programs. Sixty-three percent (62.5%) of those persons responding felt that black newspapers overemphasized black crime.

DECLINING TREND IN QUALITY OF MEDIA

Although low income area residents perceived a distinct change in media, many felt that the industry as a whole is experiencing a decline in overall quality. Sixty-six percent reported that the quality of television programs had changed. Of those persons reporting changes, over half (56.1%) indicated that these programs had changed for the worse, particularly in the areas of entertainment (73.9%) and the news (62.5%). In addition, more than half (52.4%) rated the overall quality of black television shows as either average or poor.

Survey respondents also indicated that the motion picture industry did not provide an accurate description of life in the black community. Sixty-three percent (62.5%) of survey respondents reported that black movies do not accurately show life in the black community.

The perceived overall decline in the quality of the media industry has not diminished the impact of the television medium on the black community. Although sixty percent of low income area residents reported that their choice of the products they currently use is influenced by television, only thirty-nine percent (39.3%) felt that television had a negative influence on black families.

DISSATISFACTION WITH LOCAL BLACK PROGRAMMING

Many low income area residents are dissatisfied with the quality of locally produced black programs in both the radio and television. Half of the survey respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied with the quality of locally produced black programs. Almost forty-six percent (45.9%) of the respondents rated the quality of radio in the city of New Orleans as ranging from average (24.6%) to poor (21.3%).

DESIRED MEDIA CHANGES

Though many low income residents indicated a dissatisfaction with locally produced black programs, fifty-five percent (55.4%) indicated that they wanted to see more local black programs and more children programming. Forty percent (40.5%) wanted more educational or public service programs.

Forty-two percent (41.9%) of survey respondents indicated that free television time should be made available for political candidates.

Low income area residents reported that there exists a need to improve black radio in the areas of news and public affairs broadcasting. Forty-three percent of survey respondents indicated needed improvement in the area of public affairs; Thirty-nine percent (39.2%) indicated needed improvement in the area of news. In addition, fifty-three percent (53.1%) desired to have more religious programs on the radio.

A vast majority of survey area residents indicated a need for increased black participation in local ownership and management opportunities. An overwhelming ninety-one percent (90.5%) of respondents indicated a need for a black owned and operated radio station in the New Orleans area. In addition, thirty-six percent (36.5%) of those responding reported a need for more black participation in the area of media management.

UNDERUTILIZATION OF LOCAL BLACK THEATRES

Low income area respondents revealed limited involvement and support of local black theatres as an additional entertainment medium. Almost fifty-eight percent (57.8%) of those responding indicated that they had never attended either the Dashiki Project Theatre or the Free Southern Theatre.

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That an investigatory and review mechanism, comprised of community and media industry representatives, through which communication concerns and dissatisfactions regarding television and radio programming can be channeled to provide avenues for consumer expression and reactions and promote media accountability be developed.

That increased ownership and management opportunities be provided for Blacks through the expansion of existing minority recruitment and training programs offered by the radio and television media.

That consumer education programs be expanded to familiarize citizens with the relationship and influence of consumer purchasing power to media programming.

That attention be called to dissatisfactions with program variety selection and format. Local stations that habitually violate regulatory practices of FCC should be identified.

That concentrated efforts be made to insure an accurate and positive image of black experience in all communication outlets.

That there be increased variety in locally produced Black radio and television programs which accurately represents local black lifestyles.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The vast majority of low income area respondents feel that the overall image of blacks in the media has improved although news coverage of black community life continues to be inaccurate or distorted. Many have expressed extreme dissatisfaction with newspaper accounts and radio and television broadcasts of news events which tend to overemphasize criminal offenses committed by blacks daily.

The distinct decline in the overall quality of the media is of concern to low icome residents. Many expressed extreme dissatisfaction in the areas of entertainment and news and desire to see improvements in these areas.

Needed improvement in the overall quality of black television programs and movies as well as variety in locally produced programs that accurately depict life in the black community were cited as major concerns of low income residents.

Many desire to see increased participation in local media ownership and management opportunities by blacks, especially in radio.

Only thirty percent of survey respondents feel that the image of blacks in the media had gotten worse.

Sixty-nine percent of low income residents claim that the daily newspapers do not adequately report the news of the black community. Forty-one percent of respondents felt that black newspapers do not represent the interest of the black community.

Seventy-four percent of area residents are dependent upon television as their usual source of news; fifty-five percent reported a dependence on the radio; and forty-three percent relied on the daily newspaper.

Fifty-seven percent of survey respondents indicated that too much emphasis was placed on black crimes in television programming; fifty percent (50%) in newspaper accounts; thirty percent (29.7%) in local radio programs; and sixty-two percent (62.5%) in black newspapers.

Sixty-six percent of low income respondents reported that they felt the quality of television programs had changed. Fifty-six percent of those respondents interpreted the change as for the worse, particularly in the areas of entertainment (73.9%) and news (62.5%).

Sixty-three percent (62.5%) of survey respondents reported that they felt black movies do not accurately show life as it exists in the black community.

Sixty percent of low income area residents reported that their choice of the products they currently use was influenced by television.

Thirty-nine percent (39.3%) of survey area residents indicated they felt television had a negative influence on black families.

Half of survey respondents are dissatisfied with the quality of locally produced black programs.

Forty-six percent (45.9%) of survey respondents rated the quality of the black radio in New Orleans as ranging from average (24.6%) to poor (21.3%).

As suggested improvements in television media programming, low income area residents indicated a desire to see more local black programs (55.4%); more true to life programs about the black experience (55.4%); more children's programs (41.9%); and more educational or public service programs (40.5%).

Forty-two percent of survey respondents felt that free television time should be made available to political candidates.

As needed changes in radio programming, low income respondents indicated the need for improvement in the area of public affairs (43%) and area news (39.2%); and need for black owned and operated radio stations in New Orleans (90.5%).

Almost fifty-eight percent (57.8%) of low income area residents indicated they had never attended either the Dashiki Project Theatre or the Free Southern Theatre.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Elections in New Orleans are times of great hype and hope. Elected officials present records of past performance and promise to do more of the same, while new candidates examine those same records and challenge voters to do better and make a change.

To the poor and black, whose votes are actively solicited, elections are small islands of dialogue in great seas of silence. For no longer than a few weeks, their problems and concerns are addressed and debated before being shelved and forgotten until the next election comes along. But during those few weeks, the black citizenry is ballyhooed and wooed by TV, radio, newspaper, leaflets, and loudspeakers, while they are essentially treated like very expendable pawns in a much larger game of power and influence.

Political patterns emerge: Black leadership strangely supportes white candidates with past records of strong anti-black performatnce. A score of black politicians pile into a single race against a sole white condidate and none win. Though blacks comprise over 50% of the population, apathy in both registration and voting is apparent.

Their allegiance questioned, their sincerity mistrusted, black candidates and elected officials are oftentimes viewed as part of the problem for a quietly desperate constituency needing representation when none is present.

Blacks are cynically indifferent to the political process, an attitude that has been transformed into historical inevitability: Politics ignores those who ignore it. Yet the interest of the black citizenry has been ignored whether they have supported the winning candidate or not. Their participation in the political arena has been a matter of little significance and immense frustration.

It is hardly surprising that the category of POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT ranked last among the concerns of the Project ASSIST respondents, while it is oddly ironic that it is also their most effective organ of meaningful change in their lives and their future.

The following reveals survey respondents' perception of the ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS.

103

The Urban League community survey, raised several key issues and highlighted many problems New Orleans must cope with if it is to achieve the greatness inherent in its rich and varied population. THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS explored the question of political alienation, with particular emphasis on the dimensions of powerlessness, normlessness and apathy. Additional questions focused on the effectiveness and responsiveness of government and its agents. Significant findings are organized around the four basic issues of POLITICAL ALIENATION, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BLACK LEADERSHIP, GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS, AND THE ROLE OF RELIGION AND EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY.

POLITICAL ALIENATION

Despite the fact that a majority of Project ASSIST survey respondents reported having been politically involved, a significant proportion of low income area respondents remain cut-off from the political system. Seventy-four percent of low income area respondents indicated they were registered voters. Of those persons who were registered, ninety percent reported voting within the last two years. Seventy-four percent reported they had encouraged other people to register.

One out of four low income area respondents indicated they were not registered voters.

The primary explanations given for political non-involvement by blacks were shared by registered voters not exercising their voting rights, by non-registered persons, and by persons politically active. Many indicated that they had not taken the time and that voting wouldn't change anything. Of those registered persons who reported they had not voted during the last two years, 75.6% said they had not taken the time; 24.3% indicated that voting would not change anything; 19.2% reported there was no meaningful difference between candidates.

Forty-five percent (44.6%) of non-registered citizens reported they simply had never taken the time to register. Eleven percent (11.4%) felt voting would not change anything. Ten percent indicated they didn't know how to register.

One third of total survey respondents indicated many black people do not register and vote because they feel voting won't change anything. Twenty-seven percent (26.8%) felt that many black people are apathetic; nineteen percent (18.8%) made reference to the fact that blacks are outside the political arena.

The majority of survey respondents have limited their political involvement to voting or asking someone else to vote. The bulk of low income area respondents are not involved in political organizations, and do not attend political meetings or forums. Only 3.7% of the total Project ASSIST sample reported membership in a political organization. Over half (55.3%) reported they had never attended a political meeting or forum.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BLACK LEADERSHIP

Although the vast majority of black people felt that black political leaders were responsive to black interests, a sizeable proportion of black citizens feel that black politicians are unconcerned about the welfare of the masses and have become apathetic as a result of the political fragmentation of the black community.

Fifty-two percent (52.2%) of survey respondents reported that black leaders represent the interests of the black community. Thirty-nine percent (39.1%) felt they were not responsive to concerns of blacks.

Twenty-eight percent of survey respondents indicated that black candidates are not elected more often to public office because too many black candidates enter the same race.

Nonetheless, black politicians were perceived to be more sensitive to the needs of poor people than white politicians. Sixty-four percent (63.7%) of survey respondents felt that black politicians were more concerned about poor people than white politicians.

Clearly, the majority of survey respondents perceive black politicians as more concerned than white politicians. However, the ability of black politicians to deliver services is not as clearcut. Thirty-eight percent (38.5%) of low income area respondents felt that white politicians were more likely to bring about social changes. Thirty-four percent of the respondents perceived white politicians to be less effective in delivering services. Nearly twenty percent of the respondents perceived black and white politicians as equally effective in changing social conditions.

Although the majority of black citizens perceive black political organizations as effective and protective of black interests, a sizeable minority do not share these perceptions. Fifty-one percent (51.1%) of low income area respondents reported that black political organizations were effective in bringing about the election of black candidates. Forty-three percent of survey respondents felt that black political organizations were ineffective.

Forty-six percent of survey respondents felt that black political organizations represented the interest of the black community. Forty percent (40.5%) felt they did not represent the interest of the black community. The reasons given for their lack of representation include a belief that the sole concern is money (79.4%); they benefit only a few members of their organization (67.6%); and sell the votes of poor people to the highest bidder.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS

Although a significant proportion of low income area respondents were concerned about the responsiveness of black leaders and black political organizations, the vast majority of low income area respondents are concerned about the responsiveness of government officials to the needs of the black community. Eighty-one percent of respondents reported that government officials are insensitive to the needs of the black community. Forty-one percent (41.3%) felt they were not responsive because blacks have little or no political power. Thirty-two percent of respondents felt the lack of government responsiveness was due to divisions among blacks themselves.

Although the level of government responsiveness was perceived to be greater on the local level, the majority of respondents still felt government was not responsive to their needs. Thirty-six percent (35.6%) of survey respondents believe that the previous city government responded to the interest of the black community.

The majority of low income area respondents do not feel that federally funded programs have improved their communities. Model Cities (33.7%), Urban Renewal (38.8%), Community Development (27.6%) and the Manpower Assistance Center (32.7%) were perceived as effective by only a small proportion of the respondents.

Although the Landrieu administration did a commendable job of desegregating city government by bringing in highly qualified, well educated blacks, the overwhelming majority of survey respondents reported that more blacks were needed in city government. Ninety-five percent of low income area respondents shared this attitude.

Low income area respondents felt that the new administration's priorities during the first three months should be to increase awareness and improve the quality of available city services (42.9%); to reorganize city government; and the police department (58.8%) and to generate new jobs (36.7%). Respondents felt that the Mayor's top priorities should be increasing job opportunities (22.8%), reducing the crime rate (17.5%) and improving the educational system (13.7%).

A significant proportion of respondents reported that the governments of Orleans, Jefferson, Placquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes should merge. Forty-four percent (44.3%) of survey respondents favored the merging of these governments.

THE ROLE OF RELIGION AND EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Over half of survey respondents felt that the school board should be enlarged and that school board representatives should run from districts. Fifty-two percent (51.7%) of survey respondents felt that the school board should be enlarged. Thirty-two percent (32.2%) disagreed; 16.1% were undecided.

Seventy-two percent of respondents felt that school board representatives should run from districts. Eleven percent disagreed. The unreported percentage were undecided.

Many respondents believed that religious leaders in New Orleans have the power to improve the quality of life, change economic conditions, and elect candidates to office. However, the vast majority of respondents felt that political involvement of churches should be limited to encouraging voter participation and voter registration. Respondents did not feel that political forums or rallies should be held in churches.

Thirty-two percent (31.6%) of low income area respondents felt that religious leaders in New Orleans could improve the quality of life (31.6%); change economic conditions (24.5%); and elect candidates to office (21.4%).

The vast majority of respondents (79.5%) indicated that churches should encourage voter participation and voter registration. The majority (58.2%) did not feel that political forums or rallies should be held in churches.

THE URBAN LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

That religious and civic groups, community service agencies and city government engage in a massive voter registration and voter education drive focusing on basic issues in the black community.

That elected officials, community leaders and political organizations should demonstrate greater public accountability through publishing and distributing annual reports detailing their activities.

That community awareness programs be sponsored to better inform the public of their collective interests and responsibilities, as well as serve as available avenues of resources and grievances.

That political institutions develop more effective mechanisms of communications, solicit feedback from the community, and inform them of issues and substantial actions by public officials.

That effective and viable council or coalition of black leaders whose responsibilities would include defining basic issues and goals facing the black community and achieving and maintaining unity among the various segments of the Black population be organized.

That public and private agencies direct more resources to support priorities delineated by low income communities.

RESTATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Although the majority of black citizens have remained politically involved, a significant proportion of low income area respondents have been cut-off from the political system. These citizens have been alienated not only by the local and federal government, but by black political organizations. Many citizens have stopped voting. Others do not attempt to register because they feel that no significant changes result from it.

Respondents perceived white leaders as insensitive to the needs of the poor, while black leaders were termed ineffective in their ability to affect change. Government, in general and city government in particular, is perceived as nonresponsive to their interests. Federally funded programs, in their opinion, have not substantially improved their neighborhoods. Despite their fustrations, they feel unable to change city government.

Black political organizations are perceived as indifferent to their needs and concerned only with making money, selling votes, and patronage. Their ability to bring about the election of a particular candidate is questionable.

Many low income area respondents are dissatisfied with institutions and operating procedure. They want to see something done about the educational system, the crime rate, and the job situation. They have become disillusioned with their leaders and are demanding change.

Seventy-four percent of low income area respondents indicated they were registered voters.

Ninety percent of registered voters reported voting within the last two years. Seventy-four percent reported they had encouraged other people to register.

One out of four low income area respondents indicated they were not registered voters.

Registered voters who had not exercised their right to vote during the last two years cited they had not taken the time (75.6%) voting would not change anything (24.3%) and there was no difference between candidates.

Forty-five percent (44.6%) of non-registered citizens reported they simply had never taken the time to register; 11.4% felt voting would not change anything; and 10% did not know how to register.

One third of total survey respondents indicated many black people do not register and vote because they feel voting won't change anything. Twenty-seven percent (26.8%) felt that many black people are apathetic; nineteen percent (18.8%) cited the fact that blacks are outside the political arena.

Only four percent (3.7%) of the total Project ASSIST sample reported membership in a political organization.

Fifty-five percent of the total sample reported they had never attended a political meeting or forum.

Fifty-two percent (52.2%) of survey respondents reported that black leaders represent the interest of the black community.

Twenty-eight percent of survey respondents indicated that black candidates are not elected more often to public office because too many black candidates enter the same race.

Sixty-four percent (63.7%) of survey respondents felt that black politicians were more concerned about poor people than white politicians.

Fifty-one percent (51.1%) of low income area respondents reported that black political organizations were effective in bringing about the election of black candidates.

Forty-six percent of survey respondents felt that black political organizations represented the interest of the black community.

Eighty-one percent of respondents reported that government officials, in general, are insensitive to the needs of the black community.

Thirty-six percent (35.6%) of survey respondents believed that the previous city government responded to the interests of the black communtiy.

Half (50.5%) of survey respondents felt powerless to change a decision made by city government.

Model Cities (33.7%); Urban Renewel (38.8%); Community Development (27.7%) and the Manpower Assistance Center (23.7%) were perceived as causing community improvement by only a small proportion of the respondents.

Ninety-five percent of low income area respondents felt that more blacks were needed in city government.

Respondents indicated that the mayor's priorities should include increasing job opportunities (22.2%), reducing the crime rate (17.5%) and improving the education system (13.7%).

Respondents felt that during the first months, the new city administration priorities should be to increase awareness and improve the quality of available city services (42.9%); to reorganize city government and the police department (38.8%); and to generate new jobs (36.7%).

Forty-three precent (43.3%) reported that the governments of Orleans, Jefferson, Placquemine, and St. Bernard Parishes should merge.

Fifty-two percent (51.7%) of survey respondents felt that the school board should be enlarged.

Seventy-two percent of respondents felt that school board representatives should run from districts.

Thirty-two percent (31.6%) of low income area respondents felt that religious leaders in New Orleans could improve the quality of life (31.6%); change economic conditions (24.5%) and elect candidates to office (21.4%).

The majority of survey respondents felt churches should encourage voter participation and voter registration. Fifty-eight percent (58.2%) did not feel that political forums or rallies should be held in churches.

Forty-seven percent of low income area respondents felt that assessors should be appointed.

CONCLUSIONS

For many years, the city of New Orleans and its people have kept a mystical hold on the imagination of the rest of the nations. Its neighborhoods were projected as pockets of endless conviviality and stubborn gaiety. Though Mardi Gras is but a single season, its philosophy infused the whole year with the incredible expectation of reckless merrymaking and carefree celebration in the face of a contrasting reality.

New Orleans' poor and black populations have been victims of that traditional romanticism. Painted by the media as stepping high with brightly colored umbrella in hand and flashing gilded teeth in a ready smile, they were the manipulated creations of a cruel system of reward and oppression. With loose boned dancing down Elysian Fields against the cheerful background of sunny skies and society's approval, their style substantiated a counterfeit existence. They were both the city's mainstay and its dispossessed. They were of, but not in the system. They were cheap labor if they labored at all. But they were "poor, but happy", blessed with some extraordinary ability to extract chronic joy from the undeniable inadequancies of their lives. It was a totally incomprehensible feat for outsiders who were no less grateful and no less expectant that it continue.

But tourist knowledge of the dancing stops at the entranceways to poor neighborhoods where the reality of a harsh existence takes over and where the fantasy of an easy life ends. There, too many inhabitants are engulfed in a sea of misery and locked in a desperate struggle for survival. Few others than those who experience life in inpoverished neighborhoods understand the cumulative effects months of unemployment, inflation and crime have on recent miniscule gains made by the working poor. Here, in ghettoes of deterioration and despair, time punishes and place is purposely denied the progressive transformation of the surrounding areas of the city.

Two economies exist side by side in New Orleans--one of growth and prosperity, the other of disuse and stagnation. For reasons of heritage, wealth, and opportunity, the members of the first economy are optimistic and hopeful about the future of their city. Without these advantages and uninsulated against the negative influences of their surroundings, the second group is losing both hope and optimism. Those who insist that conditions of the poor are improving, their suggestions of remedy invites ridicule from some, while the inference that hope is still justified, evokes hostility from others.

The ailing economy is predominately black. Though some blacks have made phenomenal progress, those others who are members of the lower economy studied here, have inherited a tradition of poverty. They remain unwilling victims and pass that legacy on to successive generations. Although some have been able to make it on the basis of pure tenacity, the majority of the second economy are burdened with more than their share of systemic obstacles.

To some extent, the city's poor have continued to believe in the potential of responsible city institutions to give their circumstance some priority. Despite the economic outlook, the poor continue to seek employment. They work at low paying, dead-end jobs rather than go on welfare. An impoverished school system fails to provide their children with quality education, yet they continue to instill in their offspring the noble belief that education is the key to success. Their meager salaries and fixed incomes are swallowed up by inflation, but they maintain a struggle for a decent standard of living. The prosperity of the healthier surrounding economy eludes them, yet they support the principles of free enterprise capitalism and the American Way.

Implicit in this faith is evidence of a proven ability to endure and quietly accept society's unresponsiveness to their plight. But their frustrations find other outlets. Their muted protests surface in the mournful wails that come from Sunday church pews, from the chronically sick and weary bodies lining the walls at Charity Hospital, from the barrels of smoking Saturday Night Specials, in the acquiescent nods of young drug addicts, in the misplaced anger of one family member upon another.

Somehow the good intentions of most legislation and government programs have evaded the crucial needs of the poor. Many social programs have proven inadequate and provide the poor no easy way out. If there was ever a celebration in the poor black communities, it has been a misinterpreted dirge.

The frustrations of daily life continue, but the capability for that group to absorb the hardships of their lives is further exacerbated by what they interpret as institutionalized indifference to their suffering. Many youths are responding with a destructive indifference of their own. With the rewards of their faith and patience unforthcoming, the values that serve to contain New Orleans' underclass are breaking down. The disease of poverty ignored and allowed to spread has been redefined. Its victims are no longer viewed as worthy of aid but as the blight itself. The self contained problem has become the city's problem.

While few can predict the point in time when the frustration and anger evolves to a more direct and violent stage, it is the task of this report to sound an alert for immediate address by responsible agencies to the issues targeted by the individuals who are directly affected. If ignored, it is not difficult to imagine what effect a generation of indifferent and unskilled poor will have on the society that spawned them.

Project ASSIST documents for the first time the ever widening gap between the poor's perception of conditions that they face and the official doctrine of progress. The voice of the poor black population has actively been pursued. It speaks to us from behind the mask of joviality unkindly attached to shield society from an unbearable pain. The voice confirms a continuing faith, but it is a waning faith. And after those beliefs are allowed to die, then what?

TABLES

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
In the last twelve months, have you applied for any of the following:		
Old Age Assistance	83	8.9
AFDC	142	15.3
Food Stamps	267	28.7
Disability Assistance	92	9.9
Social Security	120	12.9
Medicaid/Medicare	100	10.8
Unemployment Compensation	98	10.5
Public Housing	58	6.2
Veterans Benefits	54	5.8
Assistance not sought	374	40.3
What other means of assistance have you used in order to make ends meet?		
friends, family members helped out financially	236	25.4
sought aid from non-profit agency	17	1.8
borrowed money	128	13.8
pawned or sold goods	22	2.4
temporary employment	85	9.1
hustling	36	3.9
other family members forced to work	86	9.3
no supplemental assistance needed	267	28.7
Other	76	8.2
In the last twelve months, have you or any member of your household had to reduce your spending for any of the following:		
Food	335	36.1
Clothing	371	39.9
Adequate Housing	127	13.7
Transportation	173	18.6
Utilities	243	26.2
Telephone service	153	16.5
Medical care	158	17.0
Entertainment	172	18.5
No reduction in spending necessary	218	23.5

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
First ranked problems of Welfare System		
Payments are too low	365	53.1
Wages are deducted	52	7.6
Welfare workers don't care	47	6.8
Too much red tape	70	10.2
Limited funds	32	4.7
Too many people need welfare	70	10.2
Costs too much for the system to operate	4	0.6
Food stamps are too expensive	48	7.0
Second ranked problems of Welfare System		
Payments are too low	39	6.1
Wages are deducted	137	21.5
Welfare workers don't care	78	12.2
Too much red tape	116	18.2
Limited funds	91	14.3
Too many people need welfare	120	18.8
Costs too much for the system to operate	12	1.9
Food stamps are too expensive	44	6.9
Third ranked problems of Welfare System		
Payments are too low	46	7.6
Wages are deducted	34	5.6
Welfare workers don't care	64	10.6
Too much red tape	84	13.9
Limited Funds	70	11.6
Too many people need welfare	117	19.4
Costs too much for the system to operate	30	5.0
Food stamps are too expensive	159	26.3
Most important change to make in the Welfare System		
Increase payments	239	34.5
Let people work and receive welfare	156	22.5
Reduce the price of food stamps	78	11.3
Better services	125	18.0
Cash payment instead of specialized services (food stamps, etc.)	18	[illegible].0
No changes needed	24	3.5
Other	53	7.6

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Generally speaking, which of the following do you think are really responsive to the problems affecting poor people?		
City Council	207	22.3
the Mayor	175	18.8
Social Service Agencies	264	28.4
the Governor	216	23.3
the State legislature	193	20.8
none of the above	203	21.9

Total number of Income Security Applicants

Category		
Old Age Assistance	110	8.4
AFDC	211	16.2
Food Stamps	422	32.3
Disability Assistance	138	10.6
Social Security	197	15.1
Medicaid/Medicare	150	11.5
Unemployment	143	10.9
Public Housing	90	6.9
Veterans Benefits	101	7.7

Is inflation a serious problem?		
Yes	833	94.9
No	29	3.3
Don't know	16	1.8

The main reason inflation is a problem.		
Fixed income	179	21.8
Can't plan ahead	36	4.4
Limited Hiring	87	10.6
Higher prices lead to higher wages	160	19.5
Small businesses suffer	4	0.5
High prices for poor quality goods	49	6.0
Devalued dollar	257	31.3
Don't know	24	2.9
Other	25	3.0

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Is there an energy crisis?		
Yes	520	59.6
No	285	32.6
Don't know	63	7.8
Main reason an energy crisis exists		
High cost of energy	148	29.2
Shortage of energy supplies	51	10.1
Poor people are least able to pay high prices	155	30.6
Prices of other goods increased due to energy crisis	26	5.1
We depend on foreign countries for most of our oil supplies	67	13.2
Don't know	47	9.3
Other	12	2.4
Are sales taxes a problem?		
Yes	631	72.6
No	194	22.3
Don't know	44	5.1
The main reasons sales taxes are a problem		
Poor people can't afford taxes	242	39.6
People are leaving the inner city	48	7.9
Increase the cost of good and services	83	13.6
Sales taxes do not go back into improvement of poor communities	80	13.1
Unequal taxation	40	6.5
Tax monies go to supporting government	86	14.1
Don't know	20	3.3
Other	12	2.0
Quality of Social Services		
Good	104	12.2
Fair	291	34.1
Poor	343	40.2
Don't know	115	13.5

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Income Security Client Status

Social Services

	Approved	Disapproved	Pending
Old Age Assistance	63.9	7.2	28.9
AFDC	69.0	7.0	23.9
Food Stamps	78.1	13.4	8.5
Disability Assistance	68.6	15.1	16.3
Social Security	87.9	7.5	4.7
Medicaid/Medicare	80.0	3.0	17.0
Unemployment Compensation	70.1	16.1	13.8
Public Housing	69.2	15.4	15.4
Veterans Benefits	72.2	11.1	16.7

Response Items

Statements	Strongly Agree		Agree		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Stores coupons may not be used as change	248	29.3	191	22.6	140	16.5	173	20.4	95	11.2
Wealth should be redistributed	182	21.4	192	22.6	173	20.4	223	26.2	80	9.4
Reduce energy cost for poor and elderly	522	61.3	276	32.4	17	2.0	24	2.8	13	1.5
Government spends more on business than poor	455	52.9	292	34.7	26	3.1	21	2.5	57	6.8
Eliminate business tax loopholes	309	36.6	310	36.7	38	4.5	68	8.1	119	14.1
The poor pay more for goods and services	227	26.6	197	23.1	58	6.8	143	16.8	227	26.6
Stop farm subsidies	266	31.3	241	28.3	84	9.9	145	17.0	155	13.5
Medicine should not be taxed	435	51.1	291	34.2	38	4.5	54	6.3	33	3.9
People use welfare despite need	333	39.6	272	32.3	66	7.8	96	11.4	74	8.8

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Statements	Response Items									
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor people need input into businesses	235	27.7	333	39.3	66	7.8	110	13.0	104	12.3
Welfare system ignores privacy rights	233	27.5	152	17.9	184	21.7	197	23.3	81	9.6
Any job is better than going on welfare	315	36.9	268	31.4	101	11.8	111	13.0	58	6.8
The poor suffer while business profits	415	52.8	302	36.1	19	2.3	30	3.6	44	5.3
Only low paying job open to the poor	467	55.0	308	36.3	19	2.2	21	2.5	34	4.0
More welfare funds mean less crime funds	365	42.9	320	37.6	34	4.0	57	6.7	74	8.7
Food should not be taxed	330	38.8	282	33.1	47	5.5	136	16.0	56	6.6
Same tax credit for renters and owners	207	24.8	295	35.3	120	14.4	129	15.4	84	10.1
Right to violate law to survive	91	10.8	112	13.3	305	36.2	263	31.2	71	8.4
Utilities are estimated not read	436	52.0	211	25.2	58	6.9	59	6.9	74	8.8

CRIME

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Perception of crime rate in area		
High	293	44.1
Medium	206	31.0
Low	148	22.3
Don't know	18	2.7
Fear of victimization of self or family		
Yes	481	72.0
No	180	27.2
Most important cause of juvenile crime.		
Bad environment	95	14.4
Lack of parental supervision	192	29.1
No job opportunities	87	13.2
Lack of school supervision	18	2.7
Influence of television or radio	27	4.1
Drugs or alcohol	179	27.2
Other	34	5.2
Most important cause of adult crime		
Access to Guns	85	13.1
Drugs or Alcohol	257	39.7
Unemployment	122	18.8
Anything goes, as long as you don't get caught	61	9.4
Limited income	19	2.9
Breakdown of societal institutions	10	1.5
Influence of television or radio	6	0.9
Unfair society or institutions	63	9.7
Other	25	3.9
Crimes committed by adults vs. juveniles		
Adults	105	15.9
Juvenile	279	42.1
Half and Half	194	29.3
Don't know	66	10.0
N/A	18	2.7

CRIME

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Area or non area residents perpetrators		
Area resident	170	25.8
Non-area resident	315	47.7
Don't know	74	11.2
Equally by both	101	15.3
Have you or a member of your family been the victim of a criminal act during the last twelve (12) months?		
Yes	92	14.5
No	543	85.5
If yes, did you report the crime?		
crime reported	70	79.5
crime wasn't reported	18	20.5
If crime wasn't reported, why didn't you report the crime		
feared for personal safety	18	100.0
police do not care	8	44.4
did not want to get involved	7	38.9
it would have been a waste of time	9	50.0
a policeman was the perpetrator	2	11.1
other	8	44.4
Quality of police service received when crime was reported		
Good	19	27.9
Fair	19	27.9
Poor	30	44.1
Overall quality of policy protection rendered to black communities		
Good	63	9.7
Fair	256	39.4
Poor	331	50.9

CRIME

QUESTIONS	Number of Responses	Percentage
Do poor black people receive the same police protection as other people in New Orleans?		
Yes	55	8.4
No	524	80.4
Don't know	73	11.2
Criminal Justice System same for Blacks		
Yes	56	8.6
No	507	77.8
Don't know	89	13.7
First solution to crime problems		
Increase police protection	279	46.0
Swifter trials	55	9.1
Higher rate of convictions	35	5.8
Reduce drugs traffic	98	16.1
Provide more job opportunities	74	12.2
Prison reform	10	1.6
Increase minority participation in the criminal justice system	9	1.5
More prevention and rehabilitation programs	36	5.9
Other	11	1.8
Second solution to crime problems		
Increase police protection	53	9.1
Swifter trials	90	15.4
Higher rate of convictions	99	17.0
Reduce drugs traffic	127	21.7
Provide more job opportunities	101	17.3
Prison reform	36	6.2
Increase minority participation in the criminal justice system	39	6.7
More prevention and rehabilitation programs	35	6.0
Other	4	0.7

CRIME

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Third solution to crime problems		
Increase policy protection	33	5.9
Swifter trials	32	5.7
Higher rate of convictions	65	11.5
Reduce drugs traffic	119	21.1
Provide more job opportunities	85	15.1
Prison reform	32	5.7
Increase minority participation in the criminal justice system	58	10.3
More prevention and rehabilitation programs	135	24.0
Other	4	0.7
Do you believe the police handle complaints concerning brutality adequately?		
Yes	85	13.2
No	468	72.7
Don't know	91	14.1
Have you ever been a victim of police brutality?		
Yes	53	8.3
No	574	89.5
Don't know	14	2.2
What do you consider to be the three most serious problems with the criminal justice system?		
Leniency of parole	236	34.0
Courts are overcrowded	217	31.3
Police brutality	373	53.7
Lack of Adequate defense by lawyers	202	29.1
Corruption	212	30.5
Plea barganing	109	15.7
Poor conditions in jails	306	44.1
Don't know or no answer	79	11.4
Other	18	2.6

CRIME

Response Items

Statements	Strongly Agree		Agree		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Newspapers overplay black crimes	295	45.8	228	35.4	22	3.4	56	8.7	43	6.7
Juveniles should be tried and treated as adults when they commit serious crimes	157	24.3	174	26.9	122	18.9	139	21.5	55	8.5
Blacks treated more fairly by black police	37	5.8	62	9.6	258	40.1	211	32.8	75	11.7
Juries seldom understand a case well enough to make a really just decision	159	25.0	174	27.6	51	8.0	95	15.0	155	24.4
It is easier to get away with white collar crimes than street crimes	271	41.9	181	28.0	46	7.1	50	7.7	99	15.3
Television overplay black crimes	250	38.7	188	29.1	42	6.5	100	15.5	66	10.2

HOUSING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Does your family own or rent this house or apartment?		
Own	87	16.0
Rent	454	83.3
Other	4	0.7
HOMEOWNERS ONLY		
Do you think your house is increasing or decreasing in value?		
Increasing	46	63.0
Decreasing	18	24.7
Don't know	9	12.3
N = 73		
Racial preference of real estate agency		
Black	26	31.3
White	8	9.6
Either	30	36.1
None	3	3.6
Don't know	16	19.3
Has your neighboorhood deteriorated since you bought your house?		
Yes	39	45.9
No	40	47.1
Don't know	6	7.1
Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for improved city services?		
Yes	18	22.2
No	48	59.3
Don't know	15	18.5
RENTERS ONLY		
Is rent control a solution to high rent		
Yes	237	53.0
No	99	22.1
Don't know	111	24.8

HOUSING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Have you ever lost a house because of foreclosure?		
Yes	25	6.0
No	394	94.0
Would you like to own a house?		
Yes	408	92.5
No	30	6.8
Don't know	3	0.7
Homeownership believed possible		
Yes	216	54.4
No	124	31.2
Don't know	57	14.4
Would you buy in this area?		
Yes	58	27.4
No	146	68.9
Don't know	8	3.8
How many times during the last 3 years has the landlord of your present house changed?		
None	285	64.3
Once	53	12.0
Twice	46	10.4
Three times	26	5.9
Four times	3	0.7
Five or more	8	1.8
Don't know	22	5.0
Do you have any reason(s) to be dissatisfied with your present house or apartment?		
No dissatisfaction	143	31.5
High rent	96	21.5
Landlord does not make needed repairs	203	44.7
Rats and roaches	160	35.2
Not enough closets and kitchens cabinets	155	34.1
Location	79	17.4
Other	39	8.6

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Other than the landlord, what agency or department would you contact to solve these problems		
The city department	77	24.8
HANO - Housing Authority	153	49.2
CIA - Community Improvement Agency	62	19.9
A Neighborhood Housing Development Corp.	67	21.5
Urban League	52	16.7
NAACP	30	9.6
Don't know	101	32.5
Other	29	9.3
During the last three (3) years, how many times has your rent increased?		
None	159	37.0
Once	127	29.5
Twice	81	18.8
Three times	46	10.7
Four times	11	2.6
Five or more	6	1.4
Have any improvements accompanied rent increases		
Yes	80	26.0
None made	205	66.6
None needed	23	7.5
Time lapse before landlord response to repair needs		
A day to a week	152	34.9
A week to two weeks	78	17.9
Three to four weeks	42	9.7
A month or more	82	18.9
No service received	60	13.8
Never called	21	4.8
Treatment by landlord or rental agent when you call about a problem		
Politely	352	84.2
Rudely	66	15.8

HOUSING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
How many times have you moved during the past two years?		
None	290	68.9
Once	73	17.3
Twice	37	8.8
Three times	15	3.6
Four or more times	6	1.4
Why did you move?		
To find a better house	91	69.5
Closer to public transportation	21	16.0
High rent	31	23.7
Problem with neighbor	14	10.7
Eviction	10	7.6
Urban renewal	10	7.6
Crime in area	15	11.5
Other	43	32.8
In your opinion, who is most responsible for solving the housing ills of the city?		
City government	251	49.4
State government	43	8.5
Federal government	73	14.4
Landlord	90	17.7
Real estate agency	15	3.0
Resident	36	7.1
HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS		
Have you ever been unable to rent or purchase a house because of the following reason(s)		
Race	80	14.0
Sex/sexual preference	23	4.0
Children	167	29.2
Pets	53	9.3
Age	34	6.0
Your marital status	39	6.8
Poor credit	31	5.4
None of the above	282	49.4
Other	26	4.6

HOUSING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Select three (3) reasons why housing problems continue to exist in New Orleans.		
The steady buying and selling	90	6.2
Because of the emphasis on protecting old houses	95	6.5
Decent housing is not available at a reasonable cost	421	29.0
Because the city doesn't provide adequate services	250	17.2
The Housing Authority	80	5.5
Because people do not have a voice in making housing policies	258	17.7
Not enough low cost units constructed	260	17.9
Please select three (3) ways of solving these problems		
Construction of more low income housing	358	22.0
Upgrade existing houses	255	15.7
Make financing more available	275	16.9
Improve city services to neglected neighborhoods	292	18.0
Improve enforcement of building or housing codes	154	9.5
Better enforcement of open housing policies	290	17.9
Do you have a neighborhood improvement organization in your area?		
Yes	142	27.4
No	240	46.2
Don't know	137	26.4
If no, what are some of the reasons one hasn't been organized?		
Not enough interested persons	154	64.2
Wouldn't know where to begin	64	26.7
Wouldn't do any good	55	22.9
Don't know	90	37.5
N/A	28	11.7

HOUSING

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Is your organization successful in pushing for housing improvement?		
Yes	60	44.8
No	37	27.6
Don't know	37	27.6
Would you like to see low income rental units constructed in this neighborhood		
Yes	383	73.7
No	100	19.2
Don't know	37	7.1
Do you think the city should tax vacant land?		
Yes	253	48.3
No	161	30.7
Don't know	110	21.0
Should the federal government provide cash to poor people so that they can find adequate housing?		
Yes	473	89.9
No	33	6.3
Don't know	20	3.8

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

What should be the minimum wage per hour?		
$2.30	7	1.6
$2.65	25	5.8
$2.90	30	6.9
$3.00	282	65.1
Other	89	20.6

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Should the minimum wage be reduced to solve the youth unemployment problem?		
Yes	57	13.0
No	346	78.8
Don't know	36	8.2
Select the most important reason why unemployment is high in New Orleans		
Unable to attract major industries	41	9.5
Poor education	68	15.7
Not enough jobs	92	21.2
Lack of training for available jobs	49	11.3
The unwillingness of employers to hire persons without experience	93	21.5
Poor people do not have the power to demand employment	20	4.6
Lack of federal assistance programs	12	2.8
Discrimination	44	10.2
Other	14	3.2
First ranked solution to unemployment		
Fight right to work law	75	18.3
Put pressure on politicians	45	11.0
Reform the Chamber of Commerce	6	1.5
More vocational training in schools	115	28.0
Attract industry to New Orleans	42	10.2
Provide more job training programs	46	11.2
Provide more federal assistance programs	15	3.7
Enforce equal employment opportunity laws	58	14.1
Other	8	2.0
Second ranked solution to unemployment		
Fight right to work law	24	6.2
Put pressure on politicians	29	7.5
Reform the Chamber of Commerce	6	1.6
More vocational training in schools	76	19.7
Attract industry to New Orleans	54	14.0
Provide more job training programs	122	31.7
Provide more federal assistance programs	49	12.7
Enforce equal employment opportunity laws	25	
Other		

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Third ranked solution to unemployment		
Fight right to work law	17	4.5
Put pressure on politicians	22	5.9
Reform the Chamber of Commerce	13	3.5
More vocational training in schools	30	8.0
Attract industry to New Orleans	28	7.4
Provide more job training programs	68	18.1
Provide more federal assistance programs	76	20.2
Enforce equal employment opportunity laws	118	31.4
Other	4	1.1
Do you feel you have ever been denied a job because of the following?		
Race	206	44.7
Sex	64	13.9
Age	103	22.3
Unions	29	6.3
Physical or mental disability	18	3.9
Criminal record	28	6.1
A discriminating test	66	14.3
None of the above	142	30.8
Ways of dealing with job discrimination		
Enforce fair employment laws	187	44.7
Boycott employers who discriminate	68	16.3
Train more lawyers to fight discrimination	32	7.7
Pass the Equal Rights Amendment	64	15.3
Examine testing procedures	48	11.5
Other	19	4.5
Adequacy of pre-employment counseling		
Adequate	134	32.2
Inadequate	190	45.7
Don't know	92	22.1
What services have you received from the Louisiana Employment Service?		
Pre job counseling	73	15.8
Job training	51	11.1
Financial assistance	30	6.5

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Present employment status		
Self-employed	21	5.0
Retired	7	1.7
Unemployed	98	23.4
Disabled	17	4.1
Housewife	44	10.5
Student	25	6.0
Government employed	37	8.8
Private employment	112	26.7
Other	58	13.8
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS		
Date of last employment		
Less than six months	75	39.9
Six months to a year	45	23.9
A year to two years	19	10.1
Two years or more	35	18.6
Other	14	7.4
Do you expect to get a job soon?		
Yes	99	56.3
No	77	43.8
Why did you leave your last job?		
Quit or resigned	47	26.9
Fired	20	11.4
Permanently laid off	19	10.9
Temporarily laid off	19	10.9
Retired	3	1.7
Disabled	22	12.6
Pregnant	20	11.4
Other	25	14.3
Why did you quit?		
Low pay	27	57.4
Personal problems with other employees	19	40.4
Discrimination	6	12.8
Poor working conditions	6	12.8
Bored with the job	8	17.0

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Why did you quit? (Cont'd)		
Illness or pregnancy	15	31.9
Lack of training	2	4.3
Other	10	21.3
Are you looking for permanent or temporary work?		
Permanent fulltime	105	62.9
Temporary fulltime	8	4.6
Permanent parttime	17	10.2
Temporary parttime	14	8.4
All the above	23	13.8
How are you seeking a job?		
Newspaper ads	98	51.3
Louisiana Employment Services	62	32.5
Private employment services	31	16.2
Friends	71	37.2
Walk-ins to industry	57	29.8
The city's job placement services	15	7.9
Urban League employment services	15	7.9
Other	25	13.1
Relocation for employment		
Yes	58	31.5
No	78	42.4
Undecided	40	21.7
N/A	8	4.3
Number of unemployed in household		
No one	98	57.6
One	39	22.9
Two	15	8.8
Three	10	5.9
Four or more	8	4.7

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Present employment status		
Self-employed	21	5.0
Retired	7	1.7
Unemployed	98	23.4
Disabled	17	4.1
Housewife	44	10.5
Student	25	6.0
Government employed	37	8.8
Private employment	112	26.7
Other	58	13.8
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS		
Date of last employment		
Less than six months	75	39.9
Six months to a year	45	23.9
A year to two years	19	10.1
Two years or more	35	18.6
Other	14	7.4
Do you expect to get a job soon?		
Yes	99	56.3
No	77	43.8
Why did you leave your last job?		
Quit or resigned	47	26.9
Fired	20	11.4
Permanently laid off	19	10.9
Temporarily laid off	19	10.9
Retired	3	1.7
Disabled	22	12.6
Pregnant	20	11.4
Other	25	14.3
Why did you quit?		
Low pay	27	57.4
Personal problems with other employees	19	40.4
Discrimination	6	12.8
Poor working conditions	6	12.8
Bored with the job	8	17.0

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Why did you quit? (Cont'd)		
Illness or pregnancy	15	31.9
Lack of training	2	4.3
Other	10	21.3
Are you looking for permanent or temporary work?		
Permanent fulltime	105	62.9
Temporary fulltime	8	4.6
Permanent parttime	17	10.2
Temporary parttime	14	8.4
All the above	23	13.8
How are you seeking a job?		
Newspaper ads	98	51.3
Louisiana Employment Services	62	32.5
Private employment services	31	16.2
Friends	71	37.2
Walk-ins to industry	57	29.8
The city's job placement services	15	7.9
Urban League employment services	15	7.9
Other	25	13.1
Relocation for employment		
Yes	58	31.5
No	78	42.4
Undecided	40	21.7
N/A	8	4.3
Number of unemployed in household		
No one	98	57.6
One	39	22.9
Two	15	8.8
Three	10	5.9
Four or more	8	4.7

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
EMPLOYED PERSONS		
How did you obtain your present job?		
Newspaper ads	12	7.1
Louisiana Employment Services	19	11.2
Private employment service	10	5.9
City's job program	7	4.1
Friend, school, or non-profit employment agency	63	37.1
Walk-in to industry	24	14.1
Urban League employment services	4	2.4
Other	18	10.6
Present job status		
Permanent full-time	112	81.8
Temporary full-time	10	7.3
Permanent part-time	9	6.6
Temporary part-time	6	4.4
On your job(s) are you dissatified because of any of the following?		
Low pay	64	37.6
Poor working conditions	23	13.5
Over-qualified	14	8.2
Too far to travel	12	7.1
Working hours	12	7.1
Problems with boss or other workers	26	15.3
Discrimination	17	10.0
Other	27	15.9
On your present job(s) which of these benefits are available to you?		
Sick leave	98	57.6
Vacation	109	64.1
Health coverage	76	44.7
Social security	71	41.0
Retirement pension	60	35.3
None of the above	19	11.2

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Do you usually work at a job that pays		
Below $2.50 per hour	14	10.5
$2.50 per hour	22	16.2
Above $2.50 per hour	97	72.9
Additional full-time or part-time job		
Yes	12	9.0
No	122	91.0

EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED

Statements	Response Items Strongly Agree		Agree		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Unions don't really represent the interest of workers	49	14.6	82	24.5	57	17.0	76	22.7	71	21.2
Everyone should have a right to a job and guaranteed income	209	62.2	118	35.1	3	0.9	1	0.3	5	1.5
More job training programs provided by industry	151	49.0	129	41.9	2	0.6	3	1.0	23	7.5
Qualified women do not get equal job opportunities	134	40.7	124	37.7	12	3.6	32	9.7	27	8.2
More day care centers are needed for working mothers	168	50.0	130	38.7	4	1.2	9	2.7	25	7.4
Unemployment compensation is adequate	130	38.8	104	31.0	17	5.1	32	9.6	52	15.5
Employees should have more input into businesses	106	31.8	145	43.5	18	5.4	25	7.5	39	11.7
Person should not be forced to take a job that he does not like	151	45.3	132	39.6	9	2.7	18	5.4	23	6.9
Women do not get equal pay for equal work	113	33.8	135	40.4	16	4.8	36	10.8	34	10.2

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Which of the following schools or colleges provide a quality education?		
Public schools	136	33.3
Catholic schools	204	50.0
Other private schools	117	28.7
Mostly black colleges	57	14.0
Mostly white colleges	142	34.8
Who is responsible for financially supporting the public school system?		
Parents	38	10.1
Taxpayers	214	57.1
Professional educators	9	2.4
Government officials	71	18.9
Business and industry	9	2.4
Don't know	31	8.3
Other	3	0.8
Did you in the past year		
Serve as a school volunteer	78	19.1
Attend PTA meeting(s)	155	38.0
Visit your child's school	149	36.5
Attend a school board meeting	46	11.3
Meet with your child's teacher voluntarily (on your own)	141	34.6
Contribute any money to the school	128	31.4
Take part in a school activity	106	26.0
None of the above	50	12.3
n/a doesn't apply	54	13.2
What are three(3) problems that concern you most about the public schools?		
The lack of qualified teachers and principals	148	13.7
The fact that teacher and principals don't answer to parents for their action	90	8.3
Discipline	155	14.3
Lack of adequate funding for supplies and facilities	182	16.8
Overcrowdness	143	13.8

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Problems with public schools (Cont'd)		
Crime in the schools	127	11.7
Lack of parental participation in activities	106	9.8
Drop-out rate or rate of absenteeism	115	10.6
Other	16	1.5
Solutions to public education problem		
Improve discipline	143	42.1
Provide more training for teachers	23	6.8
Have decisions made jointly by principals, teachers and parents	49	14.4
Teach more reading, writing, and arithmetic	37	10.9
Put religion back in the classroom	24	7.1
Have smaller classes	29	8.5
Increase funding	29	8.5
Other	6	1.8
Who is responsible for seeing that these suggested solutions are carried out?		
Faculty	60	15.9
Parents	70	18.5
Taxpayers	53	14.0
School Board	90	23.8
Government official	36	9.5
School superintendent	39	10.3
Don't know	20	5.3
Other	10	2.6

How would you rate the importance of these programs?

	Very Important		Important		Very Unimportant		Unimportant	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Pre-school education	312	82.1	64	16.8	2	0.5	2	0.5
Sex Education	134	35.1	197	52.0	11	2.9	37	9.8
Program for mental or physically handicapped	284	75.5	84	22.3	8	2.1	--	---
Drug Education Programs	264	70.8	94	25.2	2	0.5	13	3.5
Job/Vocational Programs	276	73.2	97	25.7	2	0.5	2	0.5
Adult Education	227	60.9	139	37.3	3	0.8	4	1.1

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

	Response Items									
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
or public school scourage industry	56	14.8	89	23.5	45	11.9	94	24.9	94	24.9
hool training of ttle real life help	65	17.0	87	22.8	111	29.1	104	27.2	15	3.9
ighborhood school st for children	69	18.1	93	24.3	77	20.2	117	30.6	26	6.8
incipals and teachers e little help	74	19.4	82	21.5	71	18.6	126	33.0	29	7.6
hievement in schools lated to jobs	185	48.3	138	36.0	15	3.9	31	8.1	14	3.7
sing should be used better schools	168	45.4	137	37.0	18	4.9	31	8.4	16	4.3
cannot control how hools are run	43	11.3	76	20.1	142	37.5	96	25.3	22	5.8
ack teachers best r black children	50	13.4	43	11.5	139	37.3	118	31.6	23	6.2
achers should have right to strike	118	31.1	152	40.1	38	10.0	39	10.3	32	8.4
rce educators to put n children in public hools	60	16.1	43	11.6	127	34.1	122	32.8	20	5.4
ighborhood school ildings are inferior	108	28.4	101	26.6	51	13.4	75	19.7	45	11.8
ate should fund ivate schools	54	14.2	97	25.6	79	20.8	104	27.4	45	11.8
blic schools are equately funded	25	6.6	38	10.1	156	41.5	133	30.1	44	11.7

HEALTH SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Are Blacks more or less healthy today than they were ten years ago?		
More healthy	125	41.0
Less healthy	150	49.2
Don't know	30	9.8
Knowledge of emergency health care		
Yes	264	86.8
No	40	13.2
Do you get medical attention when you need it?		
Most of the time	181	59.3
Some of the time	68	22.3
Very seldom	30	9.8
Never	26	8.5
If never, why don't you get medical attention		
Don't have a family doctor	11	42.3
Can't get an appointment	3	11.5
Can't affort the cost	15	57.7
Wouldn't know where to go	1	3.8
Doctors don't make house calls in my neighborhood	8	30.8
Drug store remedies are just as good as fancy medicines	1	3.8
Public health services are poor	6	23.1
Fear or lack of faith in doctors		
Other	4	15.4
When you seek medical care, where do you go most often?		
Private doctor	115	43.1
Public or neighborhood health clinic	73	27.3
Private health clinic	7	2.6
Emergency room in public hospital	59	22.1
Emergency room in private hospital	6	2.2
Medical service at work	1	0.4
Nurse or other qualified professional non-MD		
Other	6	2.2

HEALTH SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Perception of Physician competence		
Competent	221	83.4
Incompetent	23	8.7
Don't know	21	7.9
Cost prevents filling of prescription		
Yes	90	34.0
No	171	64.5
Don't know	4	1.5
Family usage of psychiatrist services		
Yes	225	74.5
No	46	15.2
Don't know	31	10.3
Neighborhood health centers compared to private health centers		
Better	40	13.4
Worse	73	24.4
About the same	121	40.5
Don't know	65	21.7
Health care at Charity compared to other hospitals		
Better	50	16.4
Worse	124	40.8
About the same	94	30.9
Don't know	36	11.8
Reduced health care due to cost		
Yes	123	41.8
No	171	58.2

HEALTH SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Do you have adquate health insurance?		
Yes	134	44.5
No	119	39.5
Don't know	22	7.3
Don't have any health insurance	26	8.6
Within the last two years have you had		
A complete physical examination	208	64.6
Dental examination	128	39.8
Your blood pressure checked	213	66.1
Pap smear	119	37.0
Chest X-Ray	131	40.7
Sickle cell examination	77	23.9
None of the above	24	7.5
The three (3) most serious health service problems in New Orleans		
Not enough information regarding available services	109	14.3
Medical costs are too high	191	25.1
Health insurance is too high	120	15.8
The quality of medical treatments	61	8.0
The lenght of time you have to wait for emergency treatment	169	22.2
Not enough neighborhood clinics	102	13.4
Other	9	1.2
First ranked solution of health service		
Provide more information about health services	85	33.2
Reduce medical costs	92	35.9
Provide better medical facilities	25	9.8
Improve emergency medical treatment	14	5.5
Build more neighborhood clinics	5	2.0
Provide better preventive care	10	3.9

HEALTH SERVICES

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Second ranked solution of health service		
Provide more information about health services	25	9.9
Reduce medical costs	70	27.7
Provide better medical facilities	68	26.9
Improve emergency medical treatment	30	11.9
Build more neighborhood clinics	3	1.2
Provide better preventive care	5	2.0
Third ranked solution of health service		
Provide more information about health services	23	9.3
Reduce medical costs	33	13.3
Provide better medical facilities	44	17.7
Improve emergency medical treatment	52	21.0
Build more neighborhood clinics	18	7.3
Provide better preventive care	27	10.9
Who is responsible for solving health problems		
The medical profession	118	36.6
The community	76	23.6
The government	159	49.4
Drug companies	40	12.4
Are you aware that welfare services are available for persons who have to be placed in Nursing Homes?		
Yes	159	53.2
No	140	46.8
Do you know how to secure these services?		
Yes	76	48.4
No	81	51.6

HEALTH SERVICES

Response Items

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Free abortions available for poor women	72	24.2	56	18.9	92	31.0	34	11.4	43	14.5
Doctors and nurses have a right to strike	61	20.7	74	25.1	82	27.8	54	18.3	24	8.1
There should be more black doctors	182	61.9	75	25.5	9	3.1	9	3.1	19	6.5
Implement national health insurance	162	55.3	92	31.4	7	2.4	10	3.4	22	7.5
Federal Goverment regulate doctors' fees	131	44.6	70	23.8	28	9.5	26	8.8	39	13.3

DEMOGRAPHICS

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Length of residency in New Orleans		
Less than six months	18	1.4
Six months to a year	8	0.6
A year to three years	25	1.9
Four to six years	48	3.7
Seven to nine years	52	4.0
Ten or more years	1016	77.8
Not reported	139	10.6
Were you born in New Orleans/Algiers?		
Yes	714	54.7
No	446	34.2
Not reported	146	11.2
Number of areas lived in while in New Orleans		
One	168	12.9
Two	251	19.2
Three	311	23.8
Four	211	16.2
Five	94	7.2
Six	44	3.4
Seven	24	1.8
Eight	13	1.0
Nine or more	48	3.7
Present Employment Status		
Self-employed	85	6.5
Retired and actively seeking work	52	4.0
Unemployed and actively seeking work	206	15.8
Disabled and actively seeking work	61	4.7
Housewife and actively seeking work	93	7.1
Student and actively seeking work	69	5.3
Government employed	119	9.1
Privately employed	325	24.9
Other	200	15.3
Benefits that are available to you		
Sick leave	334	68.7
Vacation	366	75.3
Health Insurance	268	55.1
None	114	23.5

DEMOGRAPHICS

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
What is your marital status?		
Single	299	22.9
Widowed	128	9.8
Separated	198	15.2
Divorced	89	6.8
Married	426	32.6
Not reported	166	12.7
Age category		
Below 20	71	5.4
20 - 24	166	12.7
25 - 29	201	15.4
30 - 34	150	11.5
35 - 39	123	9.4
40 - 44	87	6.7
45 - 49	69	5.3
50 - 54	68	5.2
55 or more	239	18.3
Not reported	132	10.1
Most effective agency in the Black community		
Churches	482	43.9
NAACP	215	19.6
TCA	149	13.6
Urban League	151	13.8
Tic Tac	1	0.1
OIC	10	0.9
Other	90	8.2
How often do you attend religious services?		
Daily	60	4.6
Weekly	554	42.4
Bi-monthly	148	11.3
Monthly	149	11.4
Semi-annually	90	6.9
Annually	57	4.4
Never	78	6.0
Not reported	170	13.0

DENOGRAPHIC

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
What is your religious affiliation?		
Catholic	259	19.8
Protestant	652	49.9
Jewish	8	0.6
Moslem	5	0.4
None	56	4.3
Other	137	10.5
Not reported	189	14.5
Annual church contribution		
Under $ 50	437	33.5
$ 50 - 99	296	22.7
$100 - 199	133	10.2
$200 - 299	58	4.4
$300 - 399	28	2.1
$400 - 499	10	0.8
$500 or more	19	1.5
None	58	4.4
Don't know	103	7.9
Not reported	164	12.6
Number of residents in this household		
Only one	142	12.7
1 - 2	267	23.7
3 - 4	465	41.5
5 - 6	161	14.4
7 - 8	67	6.0
9 - 10	12	1.1
More than 10	7	0.6
Mardi Gras participation		
Yes	433	33.2
No	472	36.1
Not reported	401	30.7
Number of students in public schools		
None	523	47.8
1 - 2	402	36.7
3 - 4	134	12.2
5 - 6	27	2.5
7 - 8	6	0.5
9 - 10	2	0.2

DEMOGRAPHICS

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
Number of students in private schools		
None	873	81.7
1 - 2	157	14.7
3 - 4	32	3.0
5 - 6	4	0.4
7 - 8	1	0.1
9 - 10	1	0.1
School attainment level		
Grammer	207	15.8
Some high school	344	26.3
High school graduate	344	26.3
Some college	189	14.5
College graduate	45	3.4
Other	28	2.1
Not reported	149	11.4
What is your sex?		
Male	332	25.4
Female	830	63.6
Not reported	144	11.0
What racial group do you identify with?		
Black	919	70.4
Afro/American	54	4.1
Negro	128	9.8
Colored	31	2.4
Creole	9	0.7
Other	8	0.6
Not reported	157	12.0
Number of bedrooms in this house		
One	229	20.2
Two	518	45.6
Three	292	25.7
Four or more	97	8.5

DEMOGRAPHICS

Questions	Number of Responses	Percentage
In your opinion, which of the following should the Urban League try to carry out.		
Improve the educational system	609	46.6
To create more jobs	750	57.4
To bring about new and better housing	623	45.7
To lower cost of electricity	597	45.7
To reduce crime	605	46.3
Other recommendations	74	5.67
Do you belong to any of the following		
Social club	226	17.3
Church group	537	41.1
Saving club	145	11.1
Union	110	8.4
Civic organization	69	5.3
Political organization	48	3.7
None of the above	375	28.7

"Project ASSIST: Action Strategies for Implementing Social Transition" was written and researched by Rose Butler, Director of Research and Evaluation and edited by Sharon Stockard Martin.